STARS LIVING / A3-1

Nic wears mom Lea's gown at her intimate christening party

METRO / A21

Fake Nigerian prince arrested by NBI for extortion

NEWS / A3

Senga admitted he was used to cheat in '04 election, says one of key officers in plot

WORLD / A24

Israel bombs Beirut international airport killing 27 civilians

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, July 14, 2006 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 216 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Top prize in bad writing goes to detective spoof

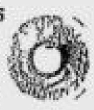
LOS ANGELES—AN opening sentence containing a burrito, an angel and a shovel was judged appalling enough to win a coveted annual literary parody prize early this week.

TOP PRIZE/ A8

BAKA NO.1 MGA PINOY DYAN!

Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to deter smugglers

By Doris C. Dumlao



TO COPE WITH SKYrocketing metal prices and make coin smuggling less attractive, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has altered the metal content of the various denominations of the Philippine peso and centavo coins.

The change in the metallic composition was prompted by rising prices of copper, nickel and zinc, said BSP currency analysis and redemption manager Maria Gracia Malic.

The BSP issued a new batch of coins in May to reduce production costs—with the new P1 coins weighing only 5.35 grams instead of the previous 6.1 grams.

The new P1 coins are nickel-covered steel. The earlier editions were 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel.

The new brass-covered coins now weigh 3.6 grams while earlier editions weighed 3.8 grams and were made up of copper and zinc at a 65-35 percent ratio.

But only the one-peso and the 25-centavo coins have so far been reconfigured.

Malic said the new coins carried the same design as the old ones and that the weight difference should not be a problem with vending machines because it only required adjustments in settings.

The intrinsic value of Philippine coins, given the high cost of raw materials and minting, is usually greater than their face value, especially for lower-denominated 25-, 10-, 5- and 1-centavo coins.

As such, some unscrupulous groups find it profitable to hoard coins and sell them abroad to cash in on high metal prices.

To curb smuggling, BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said the key was intensified enforcement and greater intelligence.

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the BSP foiled attempts by some groups to ship out over the last weekend about P3 million

CHEAPER/ A8

Palace gave 'victory' dinner for bishops

Religious affairs usec hosted after CBCP meeting

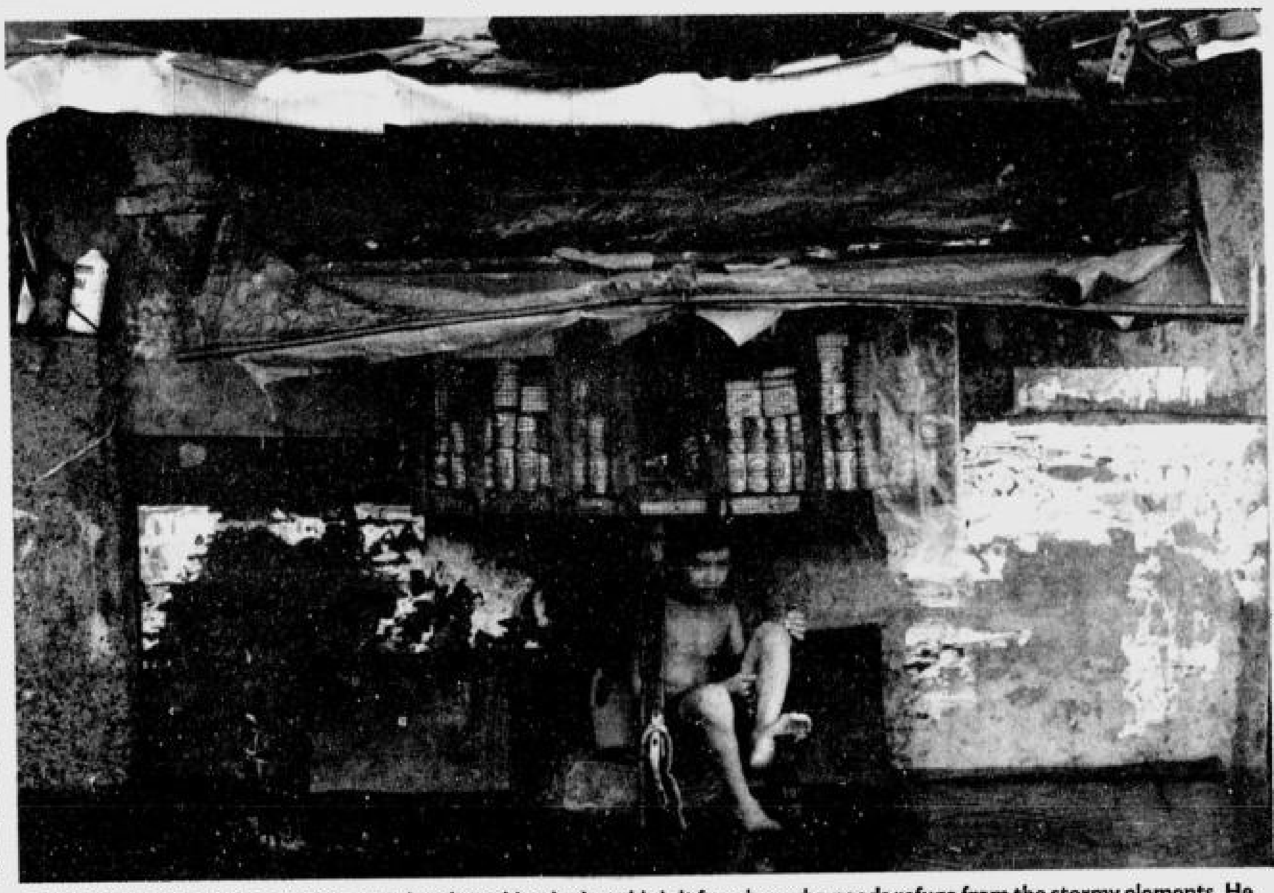
By Christian V. Esguerra

MALACAÑANG ARranged what appeared to be a victory dinner for prelates sympathetic to President Macapagal-Arroyo after the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines decided to stay away from fresh efforts to impeach her, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

A CBCP source, who did not wish to be named for fear of compromising his position in the Church hierarchy, said the affair was arranged by Fatima "Nena" Valdes, undersecretary for religious affairs. The source described the dinner party as a "reward."

The reported emergence of Valdes in the apparent Palace effort to influence the outcome of the CBCP plenary over the weekend appeared to contradict claims by pro-Arroyo congressmen that the reports were "the

PALACE/ A8


REUTERS

OUT IN THE COLD. It's not high enough to keep him dry but this is it for a boy who needs refuge from the stormy elements. He sneaks into a nook under a makeshift awning of a sari-sari store in Malabon. Pagasa says tropical storm "Florita" is exiting the country today and heading for Taiwan. *(Story on Page A15.)*

Biggest security: 14,000 troops to guard GMA Sona

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE BIGGEST-EVER SECURITY FORCE—around 14,000 police and military troops—to be deployed for a State of the Nation Address (Sona) will be seen on July 24 when President Macapagal-Arroyo will speak before a joint session of Congress, following the discovery of an alleged plot to seize the legislature.

"You can say it's an all-time high (deployment for the Sona)," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), after presiding over a joint security conference with his Armed Forces counterpart, Brig. Gen. Juanito Gomez, in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

From the original plan of 8,000 troops, authorities nearly doubled the deployment a day after claiming that the July 7 arrest of six rebel junior officers belonging to the Magdalo group thwarted "Oplan Trident," a plot to seize the Batasang Pambansa complex and hold lawmakers hostage in order to force Ms Arroyo to step down.

The NCRPO announced that it would deploy 12,000 policemen, including commando forces from the Special Action Force. The AFP National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) will field 1,000 antiriot troops, with another 1,000 soldiers on standby.

"We made the adjustments because of Oplan Trident, the Magdalo 6 and intelligence reports that the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army) will take advantage of the situation," Querol said.

But he also said: "We have no specific

BIGGEST/ A7

Mystery deepens on Bolante arrest

By Nikko Dizon, Philip C. Tubeza and TJ Burgonio

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFfairs has clammed up on the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante, citing his purported request that all questions on his arrest and detention in the United States be referred to his Manila-based lawyer and spokesperson.

The DFA action only deepens the mystery: It remains unclear why Bolante's visa was cancelled by US immigration officials.

"We're not saying anything anymore. The DFA respects his request for privacy," DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque yesterday told the INQUIRER on the phone.

But Bolante's lawyer, Antonio Zulueta, did not pick up on any of the calls made by the INQUIRER to his mobile phone. His staff also said he did not show up at his office yesterday.

The DFA, as well as a press statement from the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, provided the media Zulueta's office numbers.

The self-imposed silence of the DFA gave rise to speculations and conjectures regarding Bolante, against whom ex-Solicitor General Francisco Chavez had

MYSTERY/ A16

San Pedro 'a very humiliating experience'

By Nikko Dizon

IT IS "VERY STRICT" AT THE SAN Pedro Detention Facility, located in the suburb of Los Angeles, California, and a 30-minute drive from LA's international airport.

And more than anything, it is "a very humiliating experience" to be detained there for violation of US immigration laws.

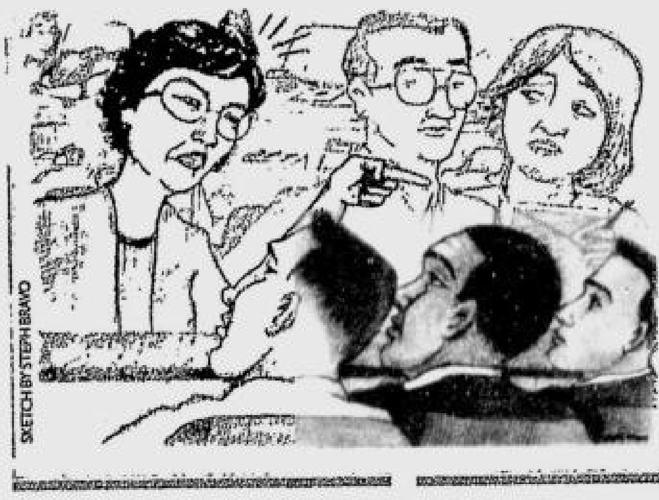
A sprawling facility, the San Pedro jail is used exclusively for foreigners who have violated US immigration laws.

This was how an INQUIRER source familiar with the facility described the immigration detention facility where Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante is being held by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now known as the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The source, a Filipino-American businessman, had been to the detention facility where he had visited some Filipino friends who had been detained there.

SAN PEDRO/ A16

I wish I were dead, 'Nicole' tells court


SKETCH BY STEPH BRAVO

AN ANGRY Teresita Ang-See (left) lectures the accused on proper decorum in court.

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

BY HER ACCOUNT, THE FILIPINO WOMAN ACCUSing four US Marines of rape often wishes that she were dead.

The complainant in the Subic rape case yesterday struggled through her words as she told the court of Makati Judge Benjamin Pozon that since the night of Nov. 1, 2005, her life had been sleepless, depressing and filled with shame.

"Kadalasan po naiisip ko, sana namatay na lang ako. Sobra-sobra po ang ginawa nila sa akin (Often I would think, I should have just died. What they did to me was

I WISH/ A6

First-ever detox clinic set up for online game addicts

AMSTERDAM—A 28-YEAR-OLD SOUTH Korean died of heart failure last year after playing a game called "StarCraft" for 50 hours at an Internet café. The parents of a 13-year-old Chinese boy who killed himself after playing a computer game for 36 hours are suing the game's licensed Chinese distributor.

"Gaming is the greatest danger to young people that has ever come along," said addiction expert Keith Bakker, who is offering the serenity of a 16th century townhouse on one of Amsterdam's canals to coax those trapped in the fantasy world of online games back to reality.

The townhouse, where sunlight warms the honey-colored wood of the centuries-old floors, houses Europe's first clinic for people hooked on playing online games.

The clinic is run by addiction consultants Smith & Jones, who felt there was a need for treatment even though experts are still debating whether excessive game playing is an addiction.

"We started seeing it about two years ago, people started coming in with gaming as sort of a secondary problem," said Smith & Jones director Bakker, 45.

"Then, we got one kid in who was gaming 18 hours a day and I wanted to

FIRST-EVER/ A17

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience stormy weather. The rest of Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. Rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will have cloudy cloudy skies with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE V. PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/13/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Stormy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Stormy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Stormy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Poll commissioners snub probe

COMMISSION ON Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. and other incumbent commissioners named respondents in the Ombudsman case in connection with the voided billion-peso poll automation contract snubbed yesterday's hearing.

The lawyers for Abalos, Florentino Tuason and Resurreccion Borra also questioned the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman panel conducting a preliminary investigation over impeachable officials with constitutional mandate as election commissioners.

"Since Borra is an impeachable official, it follows that a fiscal ought to dismiss any charge brought against him," said Borra's lawyer Gabriel Villareal before the panel tasked to look further into the Comelec officials' liability over the botched deal.

Federico Alday, the lawyer of Abalos and Tuason, added that before the Ombudsman could investigate the case against his clients, there must first be an administrative case of serious misconduct filed before the Ombudsman.

"I very much doubt the power, the jurisdiction of this honorable body to conduct clarificatory hearing," Alday said.

Alday said his clients are willing to appear before the Ombudsman but only when it has rendered a ruling that clarifies the questions of jurisdiction the office has over the respondent commissioners.

Lawyer Alfredo Lazaro, counsel for Mega Pacific Consortium, said his clients didn't appear on the first day of the clarificatory hearing because they have already been named as accused in a graft case in the Ombudsman resolution that also recommended the impeachment of Borra on June 28.

"They are no longer ordinary witnesses. They are already accused," Lazaro said.

The clarificatory hearings were set to conduct further inquiry on the culpability of Abalos and the other commissioners involved in the approval of the 2003 Mega Pacific deal, which would have covered the automation of the 2004 presidential election.

The contract was voided by the Supreme Court for being overpriced and disadvantageous to the government despite the insistence of the Comelec commissioners and the Mega Pacific that it was above board.

The Ombudsman panel headed by Orlando Casimiro released its findings on June 30 and recommended the impeachment of Borra and criminal charges against a few other Comelec officials.

The Ombudsman said then Abalos and other commissioners were to be subject to further investigation.

The initial findings were released on June 30 to beat the Supreme Court deadline for the Ombudsman to complete its preliminary investigation. Yesterday, the high court has set another deadline, this time unextendible, on Aug. 15 for the panel to complete its recommendations.

Norman Bordadora

Hon. MARK E. JALANDONI

NO SHOW. Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni and special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio (right) listen to Federico Alday, lawyer of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., explain the Comelec commissioners' absence in yesterday's Ombudsman preliminary investigation. JOAN BONDOC

God is my only judge —Arroyo

THE MOST UNPOPULAR PRESIDENT in the country's history does not care how history will look upon her term in Malacañang because she considers God as her only judge.

"I'm not going after being a great president, I just want to be a good president and not even necessarily in history. (Because) in the end, who is going to judge whether one is good or not?" said President Macapagal-Arroyo when asked how she wanted to be remembered as President of the country.

The President's popularity ratings are the lowest among all Philippine presidents, much worse than Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph "Erap" Estrada both of whom were kicked out of office through people power revolts.

Despite spending a substantial part of her first five years in office to woo the opposition and satisfy her critics with anticorruption and pro-poor programs, the President continues to be the target of brickbats from almost all segments of society from bishops to the military to politicians to student activists.

In her interview with a local radio station, the President appears to have stopped caring what other people think of her administration.

"We were all born to serve God and in the end it's going to be God who will judge who has been good and who has not been good. (Whether I was good president), that's for the Lord to determine at the end of my life," said the President.

Gov't moves back balanced budget target to 2010

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT RULING out the possibility of moving its target for a balanced budget to 2010 from 2008 as it pursues more infrastructure and social services spending, two budget officials said yesterday.

The government is also open to raising next year's budget deficit target from the programmed P63 billion to increase spending, they told Reuters.

"We have to catch up and increase spending for education, health and infrastructure," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said by phone.

The government originally planned to wipe out its budget deficit by 2010 but adjusted the goal to two years earlier given extra revenues from a broader and higher national sales tax, as well as new tax laws.

Reuters

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BEDROOM SHOWCASE Before: P213,000 Now: P149,000
COFFEE TABLE w/ 2 chairs Before: P24,850 Now: P14,900
FABRIC SALA SET w/ center and side table Before: P170,000 Now: P85,000
LEATHER & FABRIC SALA SET w/ center table Before: P82,700 Now: P49,200
BOOK SHELF 2-door Before: P49,200 Now: P29,520
Mega Sale up to 50% off on all new arrivals
PROMO PERIOD: July 14 - August 15, 2006
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OFFICE CHAIR Before: P15,100 Now: P7,500
SHOE RACK Before: P7,980 Now: P3,990
OFFICE TABLE (1.4m) Before: P11,800 Now: P8,200
LEATHER OFFICE SALA SET Before: P23,250 Now: P14,500
DRESSER Before: P40,300 Now: P20,150
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Senga was 'used' to cheat in polls, says plotter

By Fe Zamora and Dona Pazzibugan

AN 'ADMISSION' BY ARMED Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga that he was also "used" to cheat in the May 2004 elections showed Senga supported the plan by rebel soldiers to withdraw support for President Macapagal-Arroyo, an INQUIRER source privy to the plot said.

According to the source, Senga issued the admission in the presence of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Marines Col. Ariel Querubin and Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maclang hours before Lim and Querubin were to lead a military breakaway march on Edsa on the morning of Feb. 24.

The source, a key player of the planned breakaway march who granted the INQUIRER a personal interview during the week, quoted Senga as having told them that "I was also used in the cheating."

"Why would General Senga confess his role in the May 2004 elections if he did not agree with the plot?" said the INQUIRER military source.

Senga, however, flatly denied making such an admission when contacted yesterday.

"I was never involved in any cheating in the 2004 elections so I could not have told anyone anything like that," Senga said when asked if he told Lim, Querubin and Maclang that he had been "used" in election cheating activities for Ms Arroyo.

The discovery of the February plot, which Ms Arroyo called a conspiracy of leftists and rightist groups, prompted the President to declare a week-long state of emergency and led to the relief of Lim as chief of the First Scout Rangers Regiment (FSRR) and Querubin as brigade commander in the Philippine Marines.

During the May 2004 elections, Senga, who will retire on Friday, July 21, was chief of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Division in Central Mindanao, where election fraud was also reported to have been committed.

But Senga's name was not mentioned in the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes, the alleged product of the wiretapping of the telephone conversations between Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and several personalities, including Ms Arroyo and her husband, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

But three generals, namely Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Lt. Gen. Habacon were mentioned in the tapes as having thrown their support behind Ms Arroyo's candidacy, while retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani was mentioned as being pro-opposition.

Esperon has denied involvement in any wrongdoing during the elections. He has also been named by Ms Arroyo as the next AFP chief of staff when Senga retires.

An unofficial military report on the events of Feb. 23 and 24 disclosed that Lim and Querubin told Maclang about the withdrawal of support plot at around 6 p.m. of Feb. 23.

Solons ask: Give Esperon a chance

MEMBERS OF THE House committee on national defense and security yesterday expressed their support for the appointment of Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon as the new armed forces chief of staff and urged his detractors to give him a chance to prove his leadership.

Esperon, according to Davao City Rep. Vincent Garcia, and Bacolod City Rep. Monico Puentevella, committee vice chair and member respectively, is highly qualified for his new post, being one of the AFP service commanding generals.

Garcia and Puentevella, in a press statement, said it was improper for the opposition to be using the "Hello Garci" issue to question Esperon's appointment since it is a political issue which has no bearing in the selection process of the AFP chief of staff.

Loyal

Garcia said Esperon has the support of AFP officials and there is no doubt he can rally his men to be loyal to the chain of command and the Constitution.

"No less than outgoing AFP chief Gen. Generoso Senga has vouched for him. As underscored by Gen. Esperon, the AFP's focus is on their operations to remove all threats to national security," he said.

The Nationalist People's Coalition solon also expressed confidence Esperon will hurdle the Commission on Appointments.

"We urge the public not to prejudge or misjudge Gen. Esperon and give him a chance to prove his mettle of leadership. President Arroyo has given weight on his qualifications and track record in choosing him to lead the AFP. Let us abide by this executive decision."

Puentevella said it was unfair for Esperon's detractors to be vilifying him in media without allowing him first to perform as the new AFP chief of staff.

"Let's allow Gen. Esperon to do his task then judge him later on the basis of his performance and that of the AFP under him," Puentebella said.

Puentevella said Esperon's critics can just file charges against him in the proper courts instead of using him to gain political advantage. "He has said that he's willing to face his accusers Hence, his critics should use the proper forum not Congress because it is not within the lawmakers' power to determine his guilt and mete him punitive actions."

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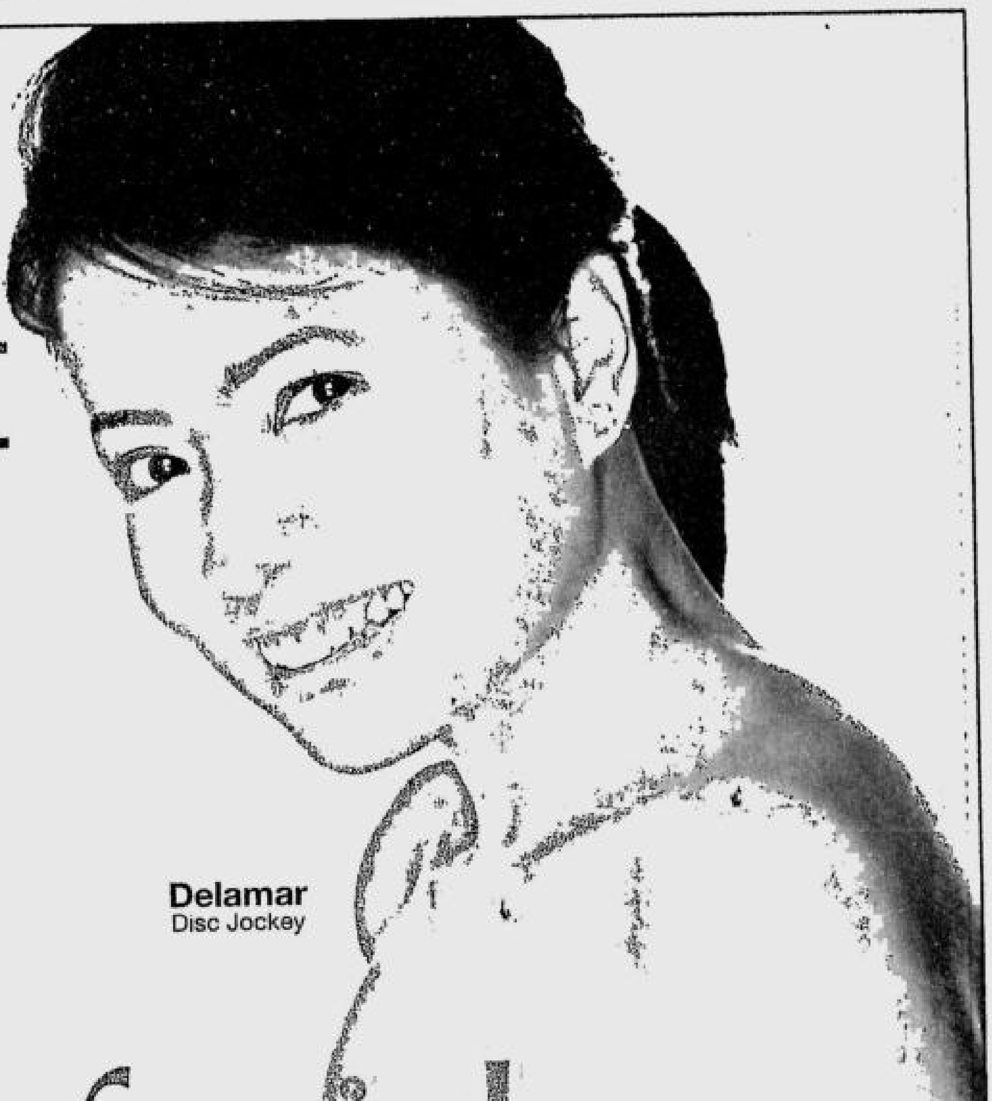

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Breastfeeding issue goes to SC

By Armand N. Nocum

THE ISSUE OF WHETHER BREAST milk is better than the manufactured substitute has spilled over from the bedroom and nursery into the Supreme Court.

A group of pharmaceutical and health care manufacturers has filed a petition against eight health officials led by Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III for the alleged imposition of an "absolute ban on advertising, marketing, promotion, product sampling, or sponsorship of breast milk substitutes."

In a petition dated June 27, the Pharmaceutical and Health Care Association of the Philippines (PHCAP) blamed the "Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR) of Executive Order 51—also known as the Milk Code—which then President Aquino signed into law in 1986 to regulate the proper use of breast milk substitutes.

Although the law was issued in 1986, the revised implementing rules and regulations were promulgated only last May and became effective last July 7.

In its petition, the PHCAP said the RIRR "impairs the constitutional right of the people [to] access to information" on breast milk substitutes.

They said the RIRR was "fundamentally flawed" because it claimed that "breast-feeding substitutes are hazardous to health and that breast-feeding is 'the exclusive means to nourish infants and [that] there is no substitute or replacement for breast milk."

The milk manufacturers also claimed that the RIRR "baselessly expanded its application to 'young children' beyond 2 years old when the mandate of the Milk Code only covers infants up to 12 months old."

"Thus, the RIRR brings the entire business activities of milk companies within its coverage," the milk manufacturers said.

They also took the RIRR to task for "unjustly" imposing more labeling requirements concerning the advantages of breast milk over manufactured milk "beyond the prescription of the law."

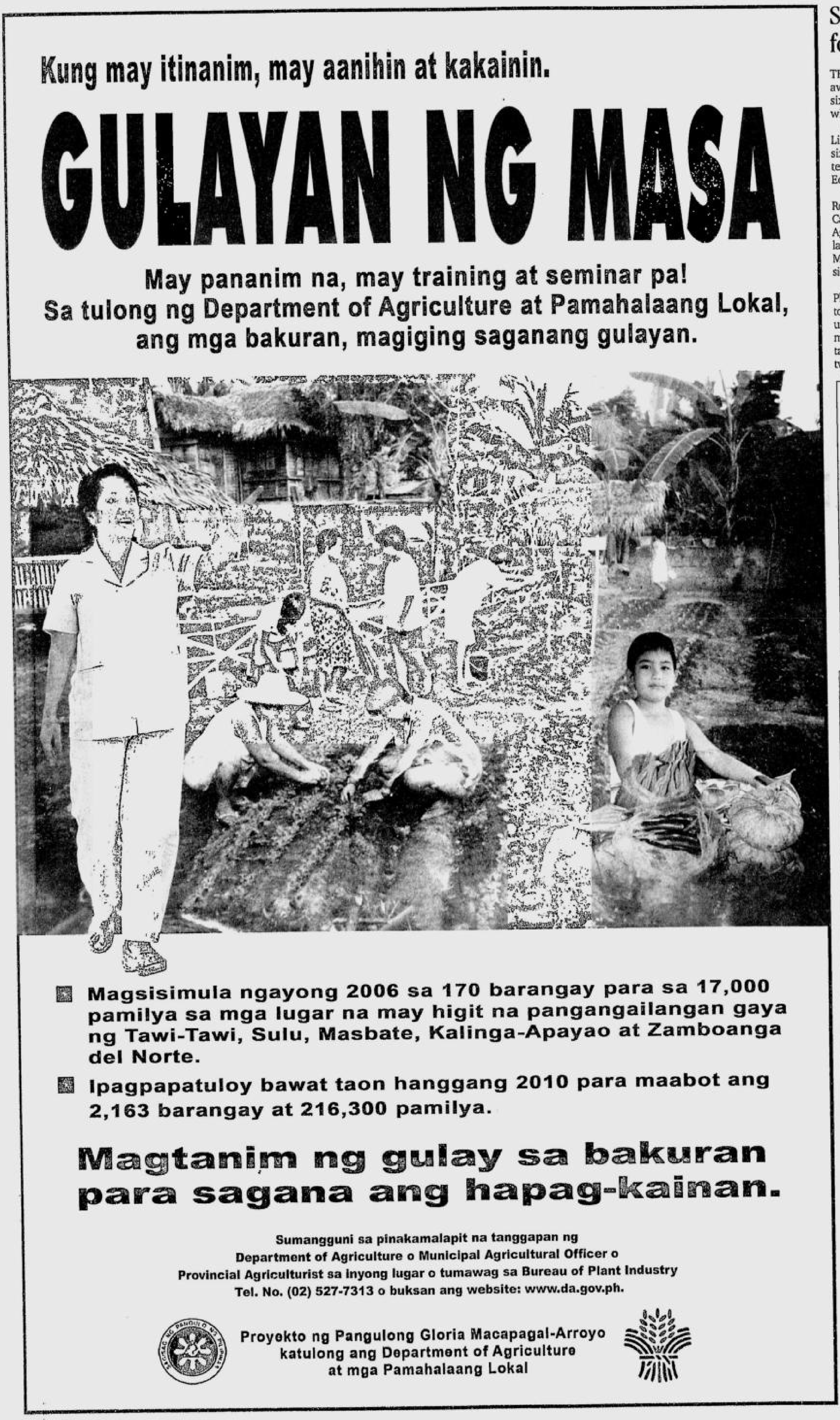
The group claimed that the strict implementation of the RIRR would cause milk manufacturers to "suffer grave and irreparable damage."

Thus, they said the RIRR was "unconstitutional for violating the due process clause of the Constitution," arguing that only Congress can amend the Milk Code.

They also said the RIRR constituted "restraint of trade."

The PHCAP is made up of domestic and foreign milk manufacturers and dealers that include Abbot Laboratories, Wyeth Phil., Mead Johnson, Bayer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline and Mercury Drug Corp.

Charged along with Duque were health undersecretaries Ethelyn Nieto, Margarita Galon, Alexander Padilla, Jade F. del Mundo and assistant secretaries Mario Villaverde, David Lozada and Nemesio Gako.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GULAYAN NG MASA

May pananim na, may training at seminar pa!
Sa tulong ng Department of Agriculture at Pamahalaang Lokal,
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- Ipagpapatuloy bawat taon hanggang 2010 para maabot ang 2,163 barangay at 216,300 pamilya.

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Proyekto ng Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
katulong ang Department of Agriculture
at mga Pamahalaang Lokal

Singapore scholarship for 6 Pinoy students

THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT HAS awarded the 2006 Singapore Scholarship to six outstanding Filipino students, two of whom hail from Mindanao, its embassy said.

Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines, Lim Kheng Hua, presented the awards to the six scholars in a ceremony at the Heritage Hotel on Tuesday which was attended by acting Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo.

The six scholars are Kristine Paula Aquino and Rocky Andaya from Ateneo de Manila University; Carlo Antonio Cabrera from Colegio de San Agustin and Jennifer Francis Ong from Immaculate Conception Academy. The two scholars from Mindanao are Kristine Buenacosa and Kristin Jessica Fabregar of Ateneo de Davao High School.

Addressing the "young ambassadors of the Philippines," Ambassador Lim encouraged them to study hard as well as make time to network and understand the way of life in Singapore. She reminded them that "each of you can play an important role in enhancing mutual understanding between the peoples of Philippines and Singapore."

Correction

IN THE JULY 12 ISSUE, a Business story on Page B2 —"4-year bond rate up 187 bps to 8.37%"—misstated the type of bonds put up for auction by the Bureau of Treasury. Auctioned were 2-year—not 4-year—treasury bonds.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 14, 2006
14th Week in Ordinary Time
Camillus de Lellis /
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

1st Reading: Hos 14:2-10
Gospel: Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Look, I send you out like sheep among wolves. You must be clever as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard with respect to people, for they will hand you over to their courts and they will flog you in their synagogues. You will be brought to trial before rulers and kings because of me, and so you may witness to them and the pagans.

But when you are arrested, do not worry about what you are to say and how you are to say it; when the hour comes, you will be given what you are to say. For it is not you who will speak; but it will be the Spirit of your Father in you.

Brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child; children will turn against parents and have them put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, but whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next. For sure, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

Commentary

The people are told to return, to beg pity, to ask forgiveness, and they are assured of God's mercy, love that is freely given, and they will know freshness of life, blossoming times and splendor of the land and their lives. If only they would walk in justice! But they stumble instead.

And Jesus sends us out like sheep among wolves telling us that we must learn to walk in the world with the Spirit that is wise, nonviolent, peaceful, clever and innocent. We are to rely on God's word, even when our own treat us harshly. We are to follow in Jesus' footsteps, bringing hope and the gospel of the poor to all until the Son of Man comes in justice/judgment. Time to be faithful.

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Manila's top cop wants less guns in streets

By Luige A. del Puerto

AS A GUNSHOW OPENED AT A MALL IN Mandaluyong City yesterday, Metro Manila's top policeman pushed for stricter gun control, saying he preferred lesser guns on streets, loose and licensed alike.

"The lesser guns on the street, the lesser the frequency of crimes committed with the use of guns," Director Vidal Querol said.

"There are sectors of society that advance the idea that we have to put in more guns to fight the criminals with guns. I say that's difficult.

We have to reduce (the number of guns) so the frequency of crimes can be reduced," he said.

Querol echoed the view of the Gunless Society that carrying guns outside homes does not contribute to the making of a more peaceful society. His remarks made him one of few police officials who has publicly spoken against arming civilians.

Anti-gun advocate Nandy Pacheco has repeatedly said what is needed is a "culture of life," and handing citizens guns does not promote this culture.

On display now on the 5th floor of Megamall in Mandaluyong City are some of the country's most advanced defense and sporting weapons.

The show, which also offers speedy license processing, has adopted the theme "Women who empower and defend themselves."

"Rapists and criminal elements who victimize women in general are getting bolder everyday knowing that most of their would-be victims are basically unarmed," the show's organizers said in a statement.

"It is also a fact that our law enforcement agencies do not have enough manpower and high-tech anti-crime equipment to ensure the safety of everyone against these felons. This leaves us no alternative but to exercise our basic rights to arm ourselves, specially women, not to fight criminals but to dissuade them from committing their immoral activities," the statement said.

There are about 800,000 registered guns in the entire archipelago, according to data from the Philippine National Police-Firearms and Explosives Division.

Told of the widely held perception that the police do not have enough men and resources to fight crime and therefore citizens need to arm themselves, Querol said it "does not work that way."

"We have to teach our citizens to obey the law and to cooperate with the police. If our solution (to criminality) is to add more guns, then we would have to solve more crimes (committed through the use) of guns."

Querol added that even among policemen, soldiers and other law enforcers, only a select few in civilian clothes must carry guns.

The problem is that in a community where there is a substantial number of guns, it takes "several steps" to find out if the man carrying one is a policeman or a plain criminal, he said.

"Less guns means less enemies and less boastfulness," he said.

But Querol made a distinction between keeping guns at home and carrying them outside.

Property at times must be defended with the use of guns, but to be in the streets with a weapon is an entirely another matter, he said.

Aliens told: Get I-Cards, or else...

IMMIGRATION Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. yesterday again warned some 20,000 foreigners in the country they only have a month left to secure their I-Card, a new version of the alien certificate of registration.

Foreigners have until Aug. 13 to secure the I-Cards that would legalize their stay in the country or face deportation for being undocumented aliens.

Fernandez said more than 61,000 foreigners have applied for the I-Card which replaced the old alien certificate of registration.

New policy

The Bureau of Immigration chief said 35,000 of these foreigners have already claimed their I-Cards while some 20,000 more have yet to do so.

The BI launched the I-Card project last year in line with the bureau's new policy to make transactions with the agency "paperless" and provide added services to foreigners staying in the country.

The I-Card, which replaces the paper-based ACR, is a state-of-the-art tamper-proof document that is the size of an automated teller-machine card.

Entry record

Fernandez explained that any foreigner who obtains the I-Card would no longer be required to produce an exit or re-entry permit whenever he or she leaves the country.

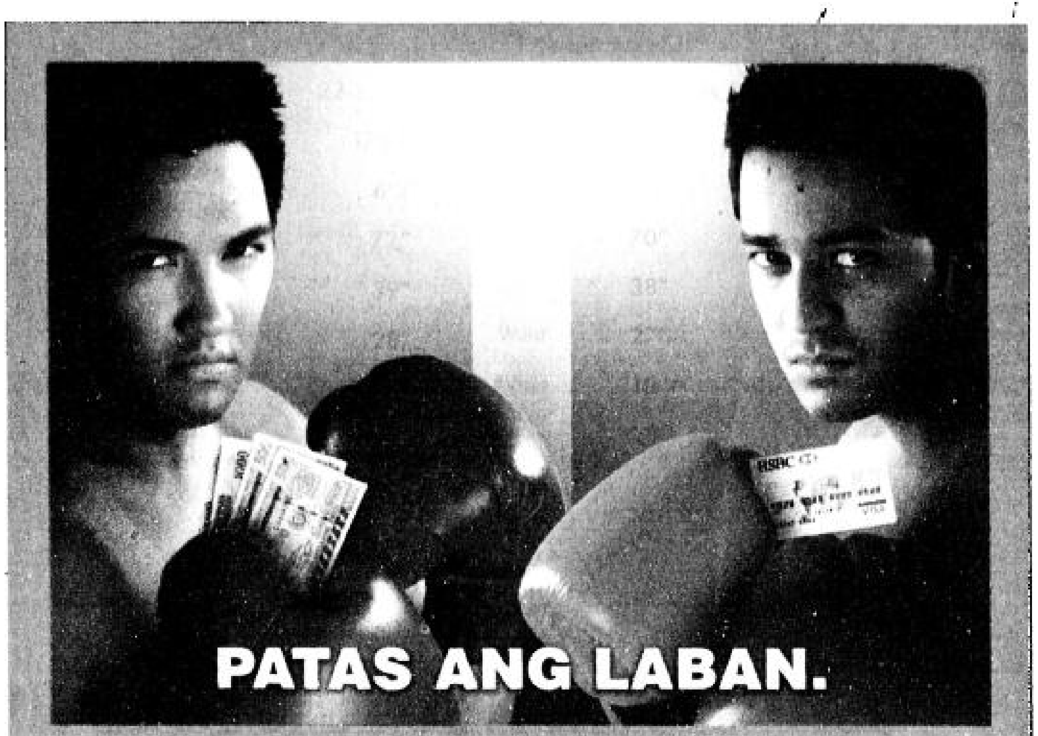
The I-Card will record all entries and departures and store them in the bureau's main computer.

Foreigners with I-Cards would just need to pay exit or reentry fees to the immigration cashier at the airport, in a special lane designated for cardholders.

In the past, immigrant and non-immigrant visa holders had to first secure reentry and exit permits at the bureau's main office in Intramuros, Manila before they could leave the country.

Fernandez earlier warned the Aug. 13 deadline would not be extended so foreigners who fail to secure the I-Card would be arrested and deported.

BI technical assistant Manuel Ferdinand Arbas said the bureau has scheduled a week-long I-Card processing activity at the Chinese business chamber building in Binondo. A similar two-day event will be held at the Sikh temple in Paco. *Jerome Aning*



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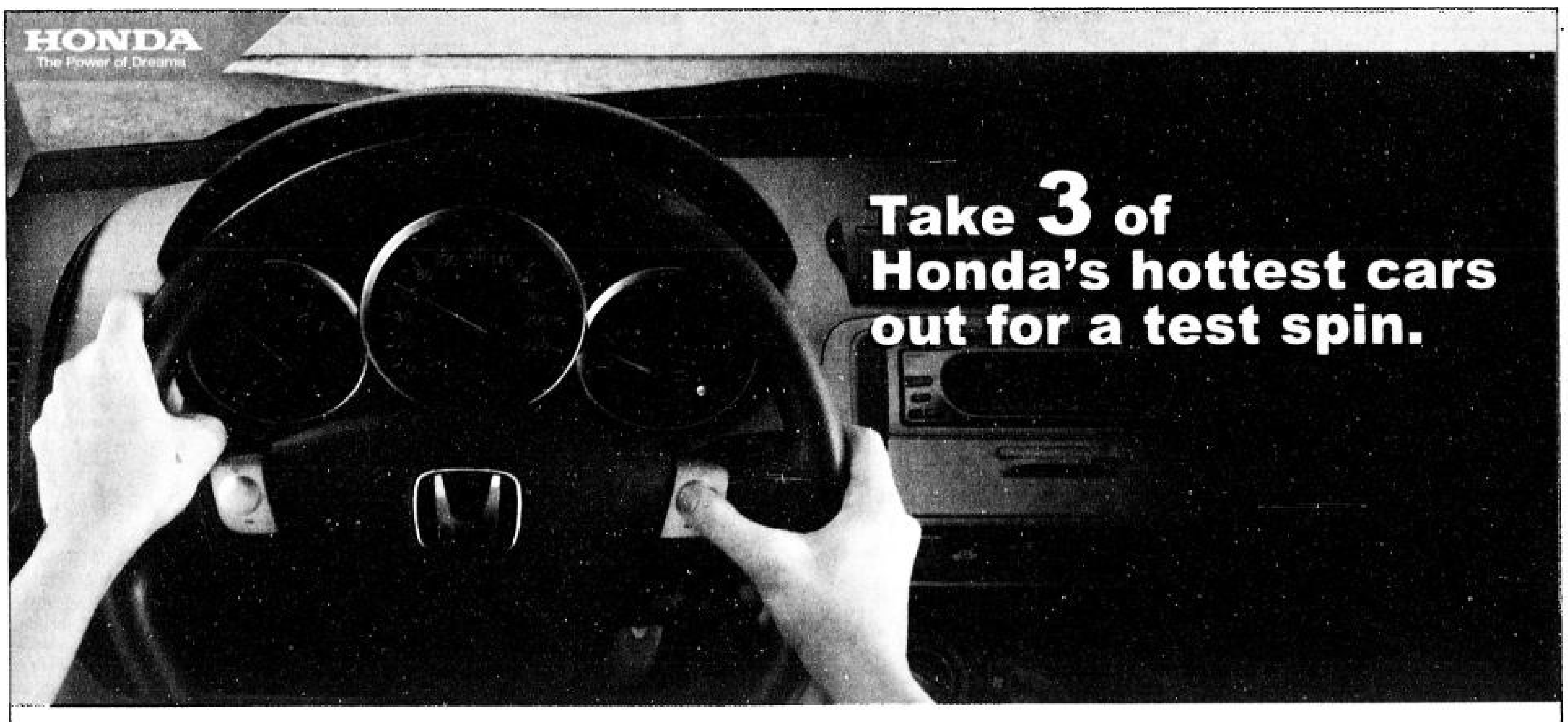

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I wish I were dead, 'Nicole' tells court

From page A1

too much)," said "Nicole," wailing and then weeping uncontrollably.

It was her third time on the stand to complete her testimony on direct examination.

Private prosecutor Evalyn Ursua had asked Nicole how she felt about herself and her body since that night, when Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith allegedly raped her on board a moving van inside the Subic Bay Freeport as his colleagues, Lance Corporals Dominic Duplantis and Keith Silkwood and S/Sgt. Chad Carpentier, cheered him on.

Nicole's sobbing, which occurred around 20 minutes into her testimony, prompted the court to go on a 10-minute break.

She was asked if she could still go on, and she said she could not. But she returned later to resume her testimony.

The prosecution's expert witness, Dr. Raquel Fortun, was also called back to the stand for the resumption of the defense's cross-examination.

In an interview off-court, Ursua said that after Fortun, the prosecution would call to the stand two more expert witnesses—a toxicologist and a forensic psychiatrist.

Losing her self

During her first few minutes at the stand, under Ursua's questioning, Nicole related how she had lost her old self because of the alleged rape: *"Palagi na lang po akong tulala."*

This third and last phase of Ursua's direct examination was intended to establish the civil liability of the accused—an aspect that, according to the lawyer, was "contingent to conviction" in a criminal case.

Showing the damage that the alleged crime had caused the complainant and her family would help the court decide how much the accused should indemnify them if found guilty, Ursua explained.

"My happy disposition is now gone. It used to be that when Anne and I were together, we would always make jokes. But now, even during the times she is here, we no longer do that," Nicole continued in Filipino, referring to Anna Liza Franco, her stepsister.

Franco, also a prosecution witness, was with Nicole at the Neptune Club before the alleged rape.

Away from home

"They took away my dignity... Smith raped me and his companions even encouraged him. They were enjoying it as if they were watching a private show. Then they just unloaded me [from the van] like a pig," Nicole said, her voice loud but trembling.

Apart from the nightmares and sleepless nights, Nicole said, depression had taken over her, keeping her from pursuing what she wanted to do.

"I no longer take care of myself. I just eat and eat, and never exercise. I have grown tardy. I want to work but I am afraid ... I always think about what other people would say once they learn that I am the girl who was raped," she said, wiping away tears.

She said she had not returned to her native Zamboanga since that fateful night, and had been staying in Metro Manila.

As a consequence, she said, she had lost the roughly P40,000 monthly income she earned from running a video shop at her family's canteen inside the headquarters of the military's Southern Command.

The canteen, she said, was the family's primary source of income.

Nicole said family life had been gravely disrupted.

She said her mother, always present during the hearings at the Makati Regional Trial Court, had quit working as civilian supervisor at the Philippine Navy, and had sold some family-owned property in Davao.

Her two brothers often took time off from work to attend to her, and her siblings in Zamboanga stopped going to school or often missed classes just to help out in the family canteen that she used to manage.

Guilt feelings

Besides Nicole, her mother, two brothers, a younger sister and stepsister Franco have been receiving necessary counseling from her psychiatrist, Dr. June Pagaduan-Lopez of the Philippine General Hospital.

All this and her family's current situation have been making her feel guilty, but she cannot do anything about it, she lamented.

"I cannot go back to Zamboanga because I am ashamed. I don't know how my friends would react and what they would say. I don't mingle with other people anymore because I am afraid that what happened to me might happen again," she said.

For her final question, Ursua asked Nicole: "Madam Witness, please tell this court, how do you feel about the accused?"

In a rage, the 22-year-old said in Filipino: "I am so angry at them. I want to kill them. If only it's possible, I would kill them. They have no respect for women."

She then turned to the accused and raised her voice to a near-scream: "You think you can touch all women! You think anytime, anywhere, you can just touch all the women here!"

Nicole is to return to the stand today for cross-examination.

'Stop laughing'

Another woman had an issue with the accused.

During the hearing's 10-minute recess, anticrime crusader Teresita Ang-See, who regularly attends the hearings, approached the accused to protest.

"Can you please tell that man to stop laughing?" she told them. "It's very insulting. You see that she [Nicole] is crying over there and you are laughing?"

It was not clear if she was referring to Silkwood, Duplantis or Smith, who were seated beside together at the leftmost side of the first row of seats at the gallery.

Reporters and US Embassy staff were surprised at Ang See's outburst.

No one among the embassy personnel said a word, and merely surrounded the accused.

Court staff quietly approached Ang-See to calm her down.

Concurrence

Resuming their cross-examination of expert witness Fortun, defense lawyers got her to agree that genital injuries could also occur during consensual sex.

Fortun also concurred that a woman who earlier willingly had sex would have various motivations for making "false accusations" of rape later against her partner. (Among those motivations were fear of getting pregnant or contracting a sexually transmitted disease, "the need for nurturance," or plain anger.)

Francisco Rodrigo (lawyer of Carpentier) read out passages from the same books Fortun had brought to court, and then asked the doctor if she would agree with the portions quoted.

"Yes, if that's the observation of the authors," Fortun said.

The other points highlighted by Rodrigo, quoting the various authors, with which Fortun agreed, were:

- Rape complainants who make false allegations typically report to authorities within 24 hours after the supposed incident, as in Nicole's case.
- A woman may have genital injuries in consensual but "intense, vigorous" or "rough" sex.
- There are insufficient studies or scientific information available to tell whether sex was consensual or not, based on the genital injury alone.

Case controlled studies

Fortun said it would be difficult to conduct "case controlled studies" that would require comparing two sets of women—ones who were sexually assaulted and ones who had consensual sex.

Grilled by Jose Justiniano (counsel for Silkwood), Fortun also agreed that a woman who willingly had sex might not necessarily manifest physical signs of arousal, like vaginal lubrication.

Justiniano also asked whether such a woman might still sustain genital injuries if she had sex in a space that was too cramped for her to assume a relaxed position. (This was after he pointed out that Nicole's alleged rape occurred in the interior of a moving van.)

"Yes, that can be a consideration," Fortun replied.

But on Fortun's redirect examination, Ursua moved to neutralize the points raised by Rodrigo.

Ursua asked whether the statements earlier highlighted by Rodrigo were backed by statistics of sexual assault cases.

Fortun said there was apparently none as far as the cited books were concerned.

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Biggest security: 14,000 troops to guard GMA Sona

From page A1

threat. The capture of the Magdalo 6 is a setback to whatever their plans to disrupt the Sona were."

The military on Wednesday said the plan was revealed in documents seized from the six fugitive officers arrested last week near Congress. In February, the government claimed it foiled an alleged coup plot by disgruntled soldiers, communist rebels and their political backers.

Protests

The documents included blueprints of the legislature and surveillance pictures of the area. Also seized were explosives, weapons and laptop computers.

RESTRICTED
LOI 33/2006
(13TH CONGRESS/SONA)
July 24, 2006

THE TIGHTEST EVER SECURITY for a Sona will mark the opening of the 13th Congress on July 24. NCRPO Director Vidal Querol (not in photo) presided over the meeting which also included among other government agencies the MMDA and DPWH. JOAN BONDOC

ROMEO GACAD AFP

SECURITY MEASURES are now in place two weeks in the runup to Ms Arroyo's Sona after the arrest of eight alleged coup plotters in a safehouse near the Batasang Pambansa complex last Friday.

The President's address has traditionally been used by left-wing and other opposition groups for antigovernment demonstrations involving thousands, but police have always prevented them from coming close to Congress.

This year, she will again be greeted by protests, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is president of the United Opposition (UNO), said in a press briefing.

"We are still planning it, but definitely there will be a mass action. It will be a venue for the people to raise the issue about the killings and abductions," Binay said, referring to the rash of slayings and the disappearance of left-wing activists all over the country.

Carol Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said this year's protests would highlight resistance to Ms Arroyo's "all-out war" against the communist New People's Army and to plans to change the 1987 Constitution.

Bayan yesterday sought a permit from the office of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte for a mammoth rally along Commonwealth Avenue on July 24. More than 20,000 people are expected to join, it said.

Grenade-throwing?

Querol said the security preparations also were prompted by intelligence reports that communist rebels will disrupt the event allegedly by throwing a grenade at protesters to "ignite antigovernment sentiments."

"We have intelligence (information) received saying if there would be a huge protest and a dispersal, communist (rebels) might lob grenades," he said. But he acknowledged that the report was two days old and needed to be verified.

He refused to divulge specific details of the information, except to say that the rebels would be coming from Southern Tagalog.

Leaders of militant groups dismissed the police statements as part of "psywar operations" meant to discourage people from joining the protest.

"They do this in every Sona, in every mobilization," said Carl Ala, information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

During last year's Sona, which took place at the height of calls for the ouster of Ms Arroyo due to the "Hello Garci" scandal, the NCRPO deployed some 5,000 troops. While the President was applauded by her allies in Congress, at least 40,000 protesters filled the road leading to the Batasan.

Overkill?

Querol said he did not find this year's large deployment an "overkill."

"When you think of security, you have to come up with something that you are comfortable with. You don't want to be in a panic mode," he said. "We are going to employ layers and layers of security."

In a letter dated July 12 but filed on July 13, Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. asked Mayor Belmonte to allow his group and its affiliate organizations to hold a protest march and demonstration on Commonwealth Avenue and Batasan Road, in front of the public market.

The program will be held between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the Fairview-bound lane, Reyes said.

No rally zone

But authorities said that as in past years, the 3-km stretch from the St. Peter's Parish Church to the Commission on Audit building along Commonwealth would be a no-rally zone.

The protesters will be allowed only up to the church, Querol said. Only the progovernment group will be allowed to stay between the Commission on Audit and Fairview, he said.

Ridicule

On Wednesday, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said the military rebels' plot included operations "designed to embarrass and cause ridicule" to senior administration officials, including former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

A military statement belittled the plot's chance of success, saying the mutineers had "no significant specific forces," were lacking in firearms and most of the "key personalities involved in the planning are already neutralized."

Officials have immediately dismissed "Oplan Trident" as wishful thinking on the part of the rebel soldiers, who allegedly tried but failed to recruit the same soldiers who joined the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

In an interview with RMN radio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said it was good that authorities were able to arrest the six Magdalo officers because they were able to prevent them and other rebel soldiers from carrying out their latest plot.

"It's a good thing that authorities caught up with them," Ermita said.

When told the documents supposedly seized from the six Magdalo soldiers did not say when "Oplan Trident" would take place, Querol was momentarily thrown off balance when asked how long he would keep the Batasan Complex under such heavy guard.

"We'll see," he said. *With reports from Tarra V. Quismundo, Luige A. del Puerto, Christine O. Avendaño and AP*

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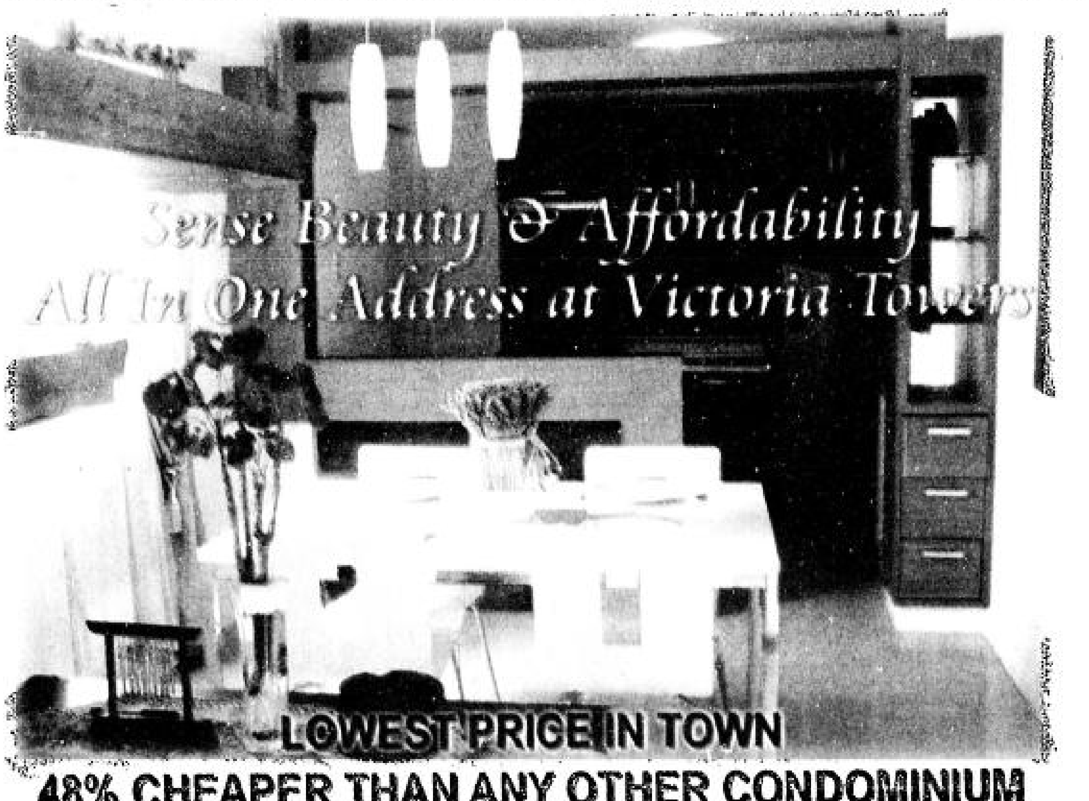
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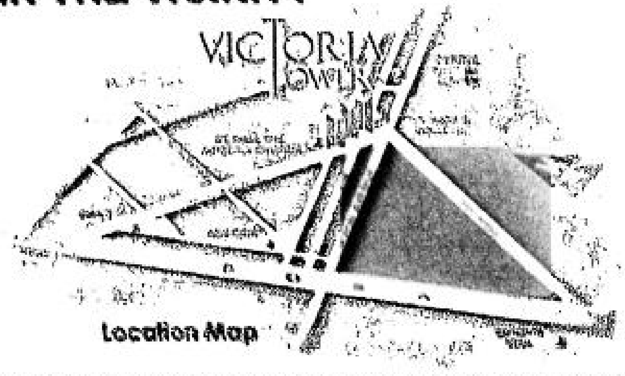

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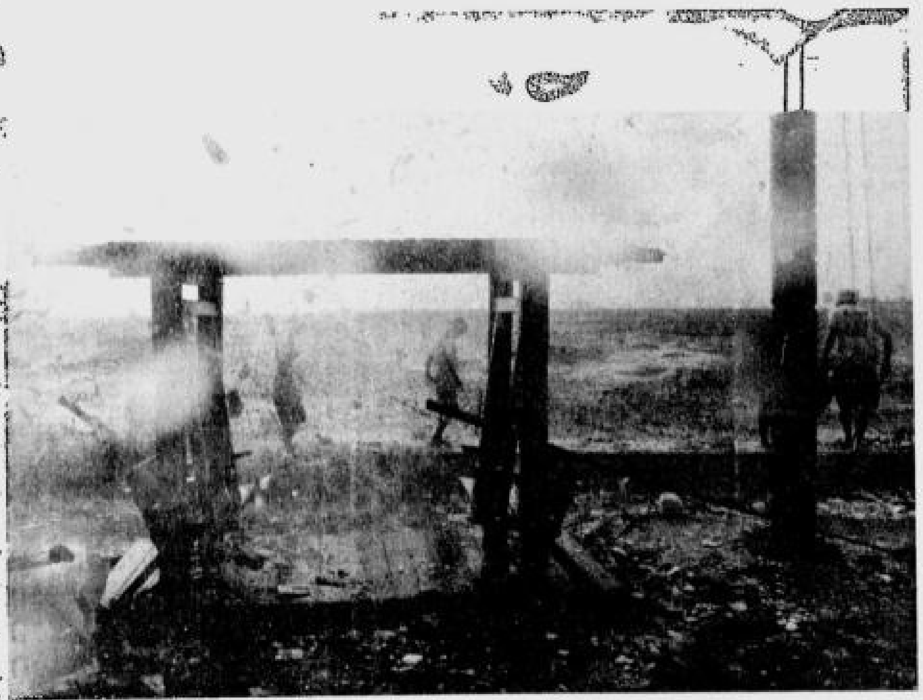

GARBAGE, GARBAGE EVERYWHERE, swept up and away and every which way at the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard by "Florita's" furious winds. EDWIN BACASMAS

SUCKERS FOR BASKETBALL, NOT SOCCER: In Candon City, Ilocos Sur, children play the nation's favorite game despite flooding brought about by "Florita." The Ilocos region has been experiencing heavy rainfall the past two days. LEONCIO BALBIN JR./NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

GMA cheated but won 2004 polls, says Lipa bishop

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LIPA CITY—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo had resorted to cheating to win the 2004 presidential elections, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said Wednesday.

But the Lipa City archbishop claimed that even if she had not cheated, Ms Arroyo would still have won over her rivals.

"*Talaga namang nandaya, eh… Pero kahit nandaya, maliwanag naman na si Presidente ang nanalo. Hindi siguro* one million (votes) *pero siguro mga ilang* hundred thousand," Arguelles told the INQUIRER.

"There was cheating but it was not enough to change the results of the elections," he added.

Arguelles likewise said Ms Arroyo was not the only one who defrauded the Filipino voters but the opposition as well.

"*Lahat naman nandaya, eh. Natalo lang 'yung iba sa dayaan*," he said.

When asked what was his basis for saying that there was election fraud, the bishop said the information came from church volunteers during the balloting.

Despite his claims, Arguelles believed that the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo was not the right answer to ferret out the truth in the scandals hounding the President.

Arguelles said the Filipino people were simply tired of too much politicking and would not support the second impeachment case against the President.

He said the impeachment case would not prosper as it lacked the support of lawmakers. "It's useless," he said.

He said bishops were not against impeachment, referring to their pastoral statement on Monday.

"We just said it would bring nothing good for the people because the intentions were doubtful," he explained.

Instead, Arguelles said the people should work together in the formation of a truth commission that would look into the allegations against Ms Arroyo.

BISHOP ARGUELLES FILE PHOTO

Palace gave 'victory' dinner for some bishops

From page A1

devil's handiwork … meant to discredit not only the Palace but also the Church."

The INQUIRER attempted but failed to get a comment from Valdes, who holds office in Malacañang.

In the pastoral statement issued on Monday, the CBCP said it was "not inclined at the present moment to favor the impeachment process as a means of establishing the truth" on whether Ms Arroyo manipulated the 2004 vote. Critics have denounced the CBCP position as vague and ambivalent.

Valdes, together with a certain "Attorney Adriano" and their staff, was also behind the reported distribution of envelopes containing cash to bishops during their weeklong retreat and plenary.

Valdes signed the letter offering cheap rice and low-cost medicines to some of the poorest dioceses in the country incidentally headed by known anti-Arroyo bishops.

This letter, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER, was distributed to dioceses earlier this year.

The INQUIRER source in the CBCP said Undersecretary Valdes had arranged the dinner on Sunday upon the conclusion of the bishops' plenary at a restaurant near where they had met at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on United Nations Avenue in Manila.

INQUIRER sources earlier reported that Malacañang had offered relief aid for Church projects for the poor as they gathered in Manila for their weekend plenary and handed out envelopes to the bishops containing P15,000 to P30,000.

Some of the bishops reportedly returned the envelopes. Other prelates saw nothing wrong in Malacañang offers of relief aid to the poor as they prepared to sit down and discuss a stand on the worst political crisis to hit the 5-year-old Arroyo administration.

'Malicious insinuations'

Last month, the opposition filed impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, reviving charges last year that she stole the May 2004 presidential election and including fresh accusations she engaged in political killings. Ms Arroyo has denied any wrongdoing.

SALUDO: Unexpected guest

Yesterday, Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of Tuguegarao and Bishops Ramon Villena of Bayombong, Sergio Utleg of Ilagan, Prudencio Andaya Jr. of Tabuk and Rodolfo Beltran of Bontoc-Lagawe said in a statement they were saddened at "malicious insinuations" meant to impugn the CBCP's integrity by people unhappy with its statement on Monday.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach for comment Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP spokesperson. Earlier, he said many bishops were aware of possible "political underpinnings" attached to gifts, favors, or treats coming from the Arroyo administration.

Envelop returned

During the weekend plenary, the INQUIRER source said Bishop Jose Manguiran of Dipolog received two envelopes from the Malacañang visitors. Upon returning to his room at Pope Pius, the prelate was surprised to see that the two envelopes each contained P15,000.

"He immediately wrote a letter and asked a priest to return the envelopes to Malacañang right away," the source told the INQUIRER yesterday.

For the Sunday dinner, Valdes ferried the group of about a dozen bishops to a nearby restaurant on board at least three "white vehicles," including a white Mitsubishi Pajero.

"They left a little past 7 p.m., shortly after the deliberations were finished," according to the source who said he had seen the group leave.

The bishops from northern Luzon blamed politics for what they said were attempts to smear the Church and government's propoor programs.

'Excessive politicking'

"The root of this controversy is again the bane of excessive politicking, which gives unwarranted political color to even the well-meaning activities jointly undertaken by the Church and the government for the sole benefit of the poor," the bishops said.

"We are glad to advise the government where the needy are in our parishes, and to provide conduits for state assistance, especially where there are limited government facilities," they said.

"In private dialogues with the government and in public pronouncements, the bishops (have) always expressed our undiluted ethical perspectives," they said.

The bishops also appealed to the media not to rely on "anonymous sources and hearsays" in publishing reports damaging to the Church and that they should verify facts in accordance with journalism canons.

Villena strongly denied allegations that envelopes were handed out during the plenary deliberations. "I was there, but I did not see anyone who looked like an emissary and was handing out envelopes. Besides, bishops are not that cheap," he said.

The bishop said the donations, which were part of the government's poverty alleviation program, were being channeled through the Church because of its credibility.

Cabinet visitor

Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said in Lipa City on Wednesday that Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo unexpectedly showed up last week at the New World Hotel in Makati City where businessman Lino Libron had given a "blowout" for Zamboanga Bishop Carmelo Morelos on his 39th year of ordination as bishop.

Arguelles said Saludo had asked Libron to let him attend the meeting to explain Malacañang's position on Charter change. He said there was nothing wrong with Saludo's effort and Saludo did not pay for the meals. *With reports from Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cheaper, lighter steel peso coins to deter smugglers

From page A1

worth of hard currency denominated in P1 to Japan, where demand for metals is high.

It was the fourth coin smuggling attempt stopped by the government since last year.

"It has become more attractive because of high commodity prices," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

Antismuggling efforts

Based on BSP estimates, P5.6 million worth of coins have so far been seized in antismuggling operations.

The first coin smuggling foiled last year was P1.2 million worth of 25-centavo coins recovered from an export processing zone.

On Feb. 18, the government also foiled the smuggling of P971,000 worth of P1 coins and another attempt to ship out P400,000 worth of P1 coins last May.

Philippine laws prohibit taking out over P10,000 worth of Philippine currency without declaring it to the BOC.

Surging world prices

The recently confiscated P1 coins can yield more than 13 tons or 13,725 kilos of copper and over 4 tons, or 4,575 kilos of nickel.

World copper prices are almost at $8,000 a ton while nickel prices are around $23,000 a ton.

Last Friday, copper prices surged by more than 6 percent to $7,890 a ton as more hedge funds, banks and other investors poured out more money in commodities, driving up the price of other metals.

Nickel prices are at their highest level since 1987.

North Korea's test-firing of missiles last week also helped jack up metal prices in the world market.

Looming shortage

But Tetangco said smuggling was not necessarily the biggest reason behind the looming shortage of coins in some regions of the country.

He said there was about P2 billion worth of peso coins currently in circulation, but these coins were not being recirculated effectively.

Tetangco said some were stashed away in jars and piggy banks, for instance.

As of end-2005, there were 11.1 billion pieces of coins in circulation, 6.7 billion pieces of which were low-denomination coins. This brought coins per capita to 121, way above the ASEAN standard of 50 pieces.

Legal tender defined

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has already approved a new legal tender definition that seeks to "encourage the public to use coins in day-to-day transactions."

The BSP is set to issue a circular that would allow the public to make payments of up to P1,000 using coins denominated in P1, P5 and P10 or a combination of these. For coins denominated in 25 centavos or less, any transaction worth up to P100 shall be considered legal tender.

Prior to this ruling, the vendor has the right to refuse payment in excess of P50 when a buyer is using coins denominated in 25 centavos, P1, P5 and P10.

For coins of even lower denominations—1, 5 or 10 centavos—the limit is even lower at P20.

Awareness campaign

The BSP also obtained support from the Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board as well as various transport groups to raise awareness and encourage the public to accept and use coins regularly to keep them circulating.

The BSP has been increasing its coin production. In 2000, it produced only some 558 million pieces of coin. By 2002, it had increased coin production to almost 1.1 billion pieces. In 2004, it produced almost 1.2 billion coins.

Top prize in bad writing goes to detective spoof

From page A1

Retired mechanical designer Jim Guigli of California won top honors in San Jose State University's Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest for bad writing, which challenges entrants to submit their worst opening sentence of an imaginary novel.

Guigli's winning entry read: "Detective Bart Lasiter was in his office studying the light from his one small window falling on his super burrito when the door swung open to reveal a woman whose body said you've had your last burrito for a while, whose face said angels did exist, and whose eyes said she could make you dig your own grave and lick the shovel clean."

Started 24 years ago

"The judges were impressed by his appalling powers of invention," said Scott Rice, a professor in SJSU's Department of English and Comparative Literature. He has organized the bad writing contest since its inception 24 years ago.

Guigli's powers of invention and his determination to succeed—he submitted 60 different entries—also won him a "dishonorable mention" in the historical fiction category.

"My motivation for entering the contest was to find a constructive outlet for my dementia," quipped Guigli, who will receive "a pittance" for his winning entry, a bit of cash that he said he may put toward the purchase of a motor boat.

Guigli's work for the contest represents a sampling of a career that never quite developed for the retired mechanical designer.

"At one time I thought I wanted to write detective novels," he told the Associated Press. "I never got a good start on it."

'Dark and stormy night'

Guigli's bad start was celebrated on Tuesday when the contest results were officially announced by Rice.

The Bulwer-Lytton fiction contest was started in 1982 by SJCU's Department of English in honor of the Victorian novelist who opened his 1830 novel "Paul Clifford" with what were to become the immortal words: "It was a dark and stormy night."

The contest began as a quiet campus affair and now attracts thousands of entries from around the world. But the grand prize winner receives only a pittance and other winners "must content themselves with becoming household names," organizers say.

The 2006 runner-up, Stuart Vasepuru from Scotland, played with one of the most famous pieces of dialogue from the Clint Eastwood movie "Dirty Harry."

"I know what you're thinking, punk," hissed Wordy Harry to his new editor. "You're thinking, 'Did he use six superfluous adjectives or only five?'—and to tell the truth, I forgot myself in all this excitement; but being as this is English, the most powerful language in the world, whose subtle nuances will blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel loquacious?'—well do you, punk?" *Reports from Reuters and AP*

Super-regions a blueprint for federalism—Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A PLAN BY PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo to divide the Philippines into four economic super-regions may well be the blueprint for federalism in a post-Charter change scenario.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita admitted as much at a briefing at the Clark Special Economic Zone yesterday.

"Yes, we can say that. The President has been addressing the local governments' concerns about imperial Manila," said Ermita.

The government has identified four super-regions that are to be turned into investment and development areas—North Luzon (to include the Ilocos and Cagayan Valley regions and the Cordillera Administrative Region, including the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija), Metro Luzon (Central Luzon and Calabarzon regions and Metro Manila), Central Philippines (Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas) and Mindanao (Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsargen and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Ermita said the super-region strategy was designed to give governors and mayors direct access to official development assistance funds without having to go through central government agencies to speed up the construction of infrastructure projects in their communities.

Solid support

"The President is giving the local government officials more importance because she knows that our economy moves with what is happening in the provinces," Ermita said.

Local government officials became the most solid support of Ms Arroyo during the most serious political crisis she faced last year as well as the most rabid promoters of her Charter change campaign.

The governors and mayors have agreed to aggressively pursue the campaign to change the present form of government from a presidential-bicameral to a parliamentary-unicameral system through a people's initiative despite opposition from the influential Catholic bishops.

The President was at Clark yesterday, the last stop of her national consultations with regional development councils in each of the proposed super-regions.

In her opening statement, the President said the consultations were meant to gather inputs for her State of the Nation Address later this month in which she will outline her super-region strategy as one of her policy initiatives in the next 12 months.

"We envision developing the economic landscape for the better because each super-region or sub-economy has its own natural competitive advantage and we will build on that," Ms Arroyo said.

Pinoys barred from leaving for Lebanon

By Nikko Dizon

FOLLOWING ISRAEL'S AIR STRIKES ON THE Beirut airport, the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday urged Filipinos bound for Lebanon to defer their travel to that country.

Following a DFA recommendation, the Bureau of Immigration has also instructed all immigration officers at all ports of departure to hold the departure of all Lebanon-bound Filipinos, the DFA said in a statement.

Israeli warplanes attacked the Beirut airport early yesterday morning, killing more than two dozen civilians, according to wire reports.

The strikes were Israel's retaliation to the cross-border raid of Hezbollah guerrillas on Wednesday wherein two Israeli soldiers had been captured.

The DFA said no Filipinos were reported to be among the casualties in the airport attack.

DFA records showed that an estimated 30,000 Filipinos are working in Lebanon, most of whom as domestics.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has instructed the department's Crisis Management Committee and Philippine Ambassador to Beirut Al Francis Bichara "to closely monitor the security situation in Lebanon, and to review as well as update the contingency plan for Filipinos there."

Romulo also directed Philippine embassies and consulates general in the Middle East to assist Filipinos en route to Beirut and facilitate their "immediate return" to the Philippines.

"The Department will review this travel advisory as the situation in Lebanon develops," the DFA said.

In a separate statement, the BI said it is particularly monitoring the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for Filipinos bound for Lebanon, following the travel advisory.

Search on for most outstanding RSC grad

THE ROMBLON STATE COLLEGE ALUMNI Association, which groups graduates from the province's largest school, has launched a search for outstanding alumni.

Alumni president Julius F. Fortuna said that the outstanding graduates will be chosen from those who have excelled in various fields including community service, politics, diplomacy, military, agriculture, journalism, homemaking, law and justice, overseas work, business, sports, science and political reforms.

Fortuna said that the various classes are urged to nominate two of their outstanding classmates for screening by a search committee. The deadline for submission of nominees shall be on Aug. 1 while the final decision shall be made by the alumni board.

The outstanding alumni shall be honored on Aug. 26 in an alumni fellowship to be held at the Aberdeen Court in Quezon City at 7 p.m.

Located in Odiongan, Romblon, the Romblon State College started as an Odiongan Farm School organized by the US colonial government in 1915. It would later shift to an academic high school after World War II and would become an agriculture school during the late 50s.

Today, it is a college aiming to become the first university in the island-province.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project: Lot I - Supply & Delivery of Three (3) Units Brand New Generator Sets
Lot II - Supply & Delivery of One (1) unit submersible pump and motor, motor controller and accessories
Location: Brgy. Irawan, Puerto Princesa City
Brief Description: Lot I
1 unit Brand New Generating Set; 50 KVA; four (4) cylinders, 220VAC power source output
1 unit Brand New Generating Set: 50 KVA; four (4) cylinders; 440 VAC power source output
1 unit Brand New Generating Set; 135 KVA; six (6) cylinders; 440 VAC power source output
Lot II
One (1) unit 20HP submersible pump and motor, motor controller and accessories
Approved Budget For the Contract: Lot I - P 3,105,064.00, Lot II P 481,902.00
Delivery Period: Forty-five (45) Calendar Days from the receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Secretary, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 17, 2006 - August 4, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 25, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
3. Deadline for Submission of Bids	August 8, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room
4. Opening of Bids	August 8, 2006, 1:30 P.M. PPCWD Board Room

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of Lot I - 3,000.00. Lot II - P 500.00 to the Puerto Princesa City Water District Cashier.

The Puerto Princesa City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) MAGDALENA D. ESPIRITU
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI—July 14 & 21, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
INVITATION FOR BIDS
Date July 3, 2006
Loan No.: CALYON
Contract No.: Sp06.LTUP.Lw-0070

1. The National Power Corporation (NPC) has received a loan from the Buyer's Credit Facility arranged by CALYON through a Master Credit Arrangement for Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1 and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation Including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.
Plant and equipment to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin from eligible source country of Calyon Buyer's Credit Facility only (United States, Austria, Belgium, England, Denmark, South Korea, Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland).
2. The National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the: Furnishing, Delivery, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Its Associated Control & Protection For Dasmariñas Substation Including Protection and Communication Equipment for Various Stations under Luzon Transmission Upgrading Project 1.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting July 7, 2006 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00).
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders or which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand US Dollars (US$ 250,000.00)
The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.
Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on August 2, 2006.
The deadline for the submission of bids will be on September 1, 2006 at 1:30 P.M. at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals
9. The total contract duration for the project is 365 calendar days.
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 7, 14 & 21, 2006)

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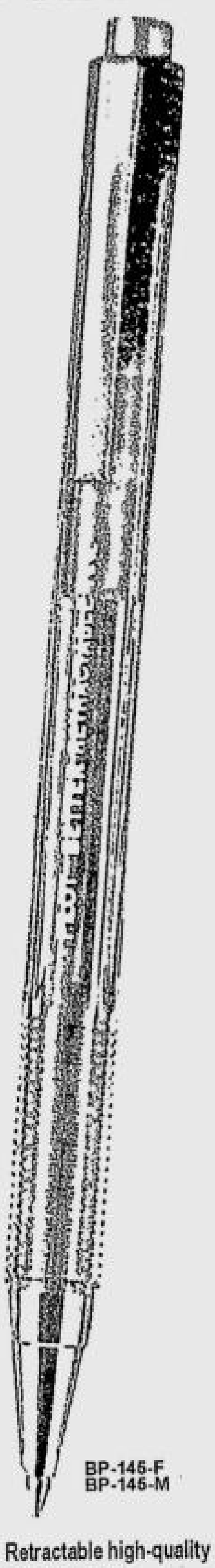

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Lapus unfazed by DepEd union's protest threat

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IF UNION MEMBERS WANT TO SET up barricades to bar incoming Education Secretary Jesli Lapus from reporting for work, they should make sure they do it outside of office hours, Lapus said yesterday.

"They can hold rallies as long as there is no disruption of work and they do not use government resources," said the congressman from Tarlac.

Lapus called a press conference yesterday in a restaurant strip half a kilometer away from the Department of Education main office on Meralco Ave. in Pasig, where Domingo Alidon, president of the Department of Education National Employees' Union, later led a small rally.

Surrounded by at least seven DepEd employees carrying posters which said "DepEd Off-Limits kay Jesli Lapus," Alidon reiterated what he said was the position of at least 40,000 members of the union.

"The department needs an academician, not a politician," Alidon said, speaking into a megaphone.

He said the union would organize nationwide rallies the moment Lapus reports for work.

Lapus appeared cool about the union's threat.

"I understand that all secretaries have experienced this kind of attitude," he said, adding he would ask the union leaders to his office the moment he reports for work possibly at the end of the month.

"If there is good faith, we will not have any problems. But if there is no good faith, we can't make somebody agree if his objective is to disagree," Lapus said.

But since Alidon and his group appear unstoppable, Lapus said the protest actions should be "within the bounds of the law."

"I hope they don't do any disruption and illegal (acts). If order is imposed on them, they would probably create another story out of that," he said.

But Lapus need not have worried about any disruptions. Yesterday's rally was held at noon, during the employees' lunch break.

Alidon said they would meet with Lapus but only after the planned barricade.

He said the union would rather have Fe Hidalgo, who has been officer in charge of the department for almost a year now, as the permanent secretary.

Lapus said he had already talked with Hidalgo and that she had agreed to stay at the department in her current position as undersecretary.

"We had a very pleasant meeting for about three hours [on Wednesday]. She told me she had never entertained the idea she would become Secretary," Lapus said.

Sought to comment on observations that the post was a reward from President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lapus said "you have my resume."

The resume, distributed to reporters before the press conference began, introduced Lapus as "the epitome of excellence in versatility."

It also said he was the "first Filipino and the youngest" managing director of Triumph International Philippines, a clothing company. He was also listed as having been a "Manila's Best Dressed Men Awardee."

Lapus was also cited as the "youngest" president and chief executive officer of the Land Bank of the Philippines which he headed from 1992 to 1998.

The resume also credited Lapus as the "Champion of Public School Teachers" for exposing in Congress the multi-billion-peso automatic deductions scheme which victimized 300,000 public school teachers.

Lapus said he had "taken a lead role in solving the fiscal crisis" last year, spearheading the passage of tax-reform bills that the President had certified.

He said Hidalgo had also told him he was "a wise choice" for the post.

In a phone interview, Hidalgo said she could not remember the exact adjective she had used.

"With the scarce knowledge I have of him, I can say he was a good choice. I trust the choice of the President," Hidalgo said.

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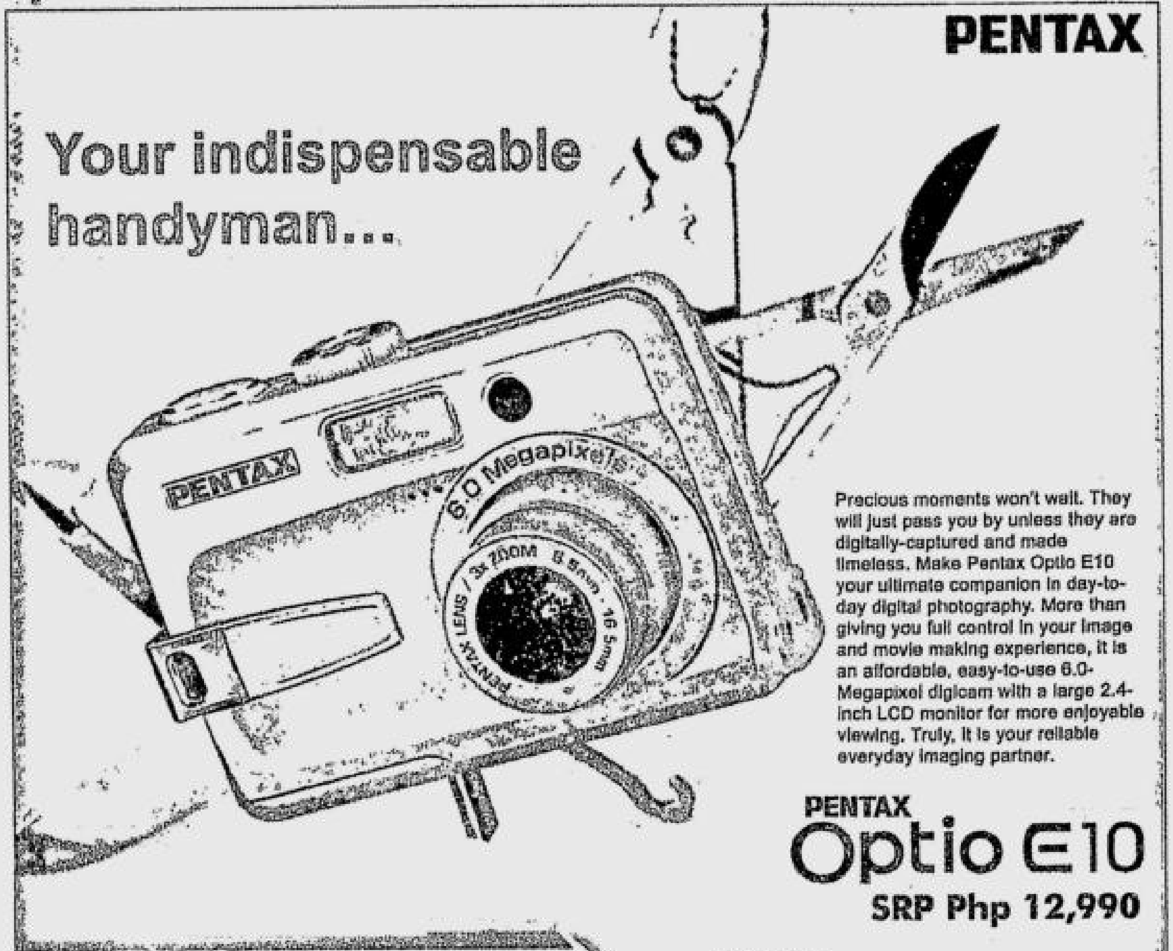

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Former banker unveils program for education

By Jo Clemente, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

TARLAC CITY—DEVELOPING THE HUMAN component and financial engineering of the Department of Education are the top priorities of newly appointed Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

To do this, Lapus said he was looking at two approaches—school-based management and playing "catch-up" with the education budget to wipe out the system's accumulated backlogs.

Lapus, who is on his final term as representative of Tarlac's third congressional district, dismissed accusations that he would be education secretary for only a year and that his appointment was some kind of preparation for a senatorial candidacy.

"I wouldn't have accepted the post if it was only for a year. What can you do in a year?" said the 56-year-old Lapus, adding that those opposing his appointment should first see what he was capable of doing.

LAPUS

Ninoy's nephew

Lapus, a nephew of the martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., is the third Tarlaqueño to be appointed education secretary. The two others were the Marcos-era secretaries Carlos P. Romulo and Onofre D. Corpuz, who were both from Camiling town.

In looking at the problems of the education department, Lapus posed this question: Different schools, different quality, why is that?

"Because those who are in charge of the schools like the principals and supervisors do not look at themselves as managers. They do not even look at their secretary as a manager," he answered his own question.

Lapus said the DepEd has the biggest human resource of all government departments and this should be made the priority.

"Developing the managerial skills and capabilities of those who are in charge of the schools is an important factor in achieving better quality education as they are the ones on the ground. What we want to see is a quality standard present in all the schools," he said.

"The quality of classroom education is determined by teacher quality. Much of this has to do with matching and getting the right educators with the right majors. There should be closer ties and consistency between the majors required by the schools with those produced by higher education," he said.

Lapus, a former bank president, said the "aim by 2007 is for the DepEd to get what it is due" in terms of funding.

'Business as usual'

"Increase in budgeting should be on a catch-up basis to address the huge backlog," he said.

Right now, he said the current budget increase for the DepEd is P2 billion a year which he describes as "business as usual."

According to Lapus, catching up would require that the annual growth rate in enrollment, projected at 2 percent a year, and inflation should be factored into the budget.

This means the DepEd's budget should increase by 6 percent for 2007 or, if one is to follow a World Bank recommendation, an increase of 11 percent, or P12 billion.

If this is done, the succeeding years up to 2015 would also require an annual increase of P8 billion for the department budget. By 2015, it is expected that the actual budget satisfies actual needs, Lapus said.

To criticisms that he is no educator, Lapus said his closest claim to academic life was being a student and having taught at the Ateneo de Manila University, Maryknoll College and the Asian Institute of Management.

"But one need not necessarily have a doctorate in education to be an effective and efficient secretary of the department," he said.

'Enterprise in crisis'

He called the DepEd an "enterprise in crisis."

"The first step in leading an enterprise out of a crisis is to address the human component, relieving it of excess baggage, myths and misconceptions, breaking molds and then rewarding for productivity and efficiency," he said.

In terms of breaking molds, Lapus cited as an example the bill he pursued as a neophyte lawmaker that led to the streamlining of the then Department of Education, Culture and Sports' automatic-salary-deduction system on teachers' loans.

This system subjected some 300,000 public school teachers to more than 100 percent interest rates per annum and zero net take-home pay.

"As I said then, having nothing to bring home had a telling effect on a teacher's performance in school," he said.

Lapus considers what he calls his track record in putting "human resources at the frontline" as a plus factor in managing a department with the biggest human resource in government.

He was chief finance officer of Ramcar Group of Companies, managing director and chief operating officer of Triumph International, and president of the Land Bank of the Philippines.

He recalls that when he was first appointed to Ramcar, he was greeted with taunts of, "what does Lapus know about batteries?"

"But it wasn't a question of batteries. It was a company in a crisis industry that was barely surviving within a crisis economy," he said.

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Gov't needs P102B a year to save public school system

By Philip C. Tubeza

TO SAVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, the government would have to spend for the next nine years another P102 billion each year on top of the annual education budget, a top House leader said yesterday.

From 2007 to 2015, the government will have to shell out P11.35 billion annually in addition to the P112 billion yearly budget for education to restore the "glory of the country's public school system," said House Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas.

"This is the additional funding required to methodically wipe out the system's critical resource shortages, implement reforms needed to fully address quality, access and equity issues, and at the same time allow for inflation and enrollment growth," Gullas said.

"Congress is duty-bound to find ways to willfully bridge the funding gap if we are to renew the brilliance of our public school system," he added.

Rapid decline

The Cebu congressman noted that a few decades ago even those families that were able to afford to send their children to private schools preferred to send them to public schools because they "provided superior instruction."

But over the past decade, the public school system has rapidly declined because of severe resource shortages, such as of qualified teachers, classrooms, seats and textbooks, among others, he said.

Gullas said that not counting the projected increase in enrollment next year, the system has an "underfunded backlog" of 10,517 items for teachers (at the ratio of one teacher for 45 students); 41,197 classrooms (at one classroom for 45 students); 1.5 million seats; and 41.32 million textbooks (at one book per student).

He said the proposed 2006 national budget that Congress failed to pass would have partially addressed the problem. The proposed budget provided for P2.9 billion to build 4,578 new classrooms, P2.7 billion to hire 9,200 new teachers, and P1.8 billion to buy 25.86 million new textbooks.

Tuition increase

Gullas cited a government study that showed that since the 1997 Asian financial crisis, an estimated 160,000 students have been migrating yearly from private to public schools, "thus putting enormous strain on the system."

"The massive migration has been aggravated by tuition increases in private schools that have averaged 15 percent annually," he said.

Gullas said the proposed P119 billion education budget for 2006, while P7 billion more than the 2005 allotment, was P14 billion less than the P133 billion that the Department of Education had sought.

"Worse, the P119 billion funding was never approved because Congress failed to pass the 2006 national budget. Thus, the DepEd has to manage this year with a re-enacted budget of just P112 billion," he said.

'Padala' firms give banks a run for their money

MONEY-TRANSFER FIRMS ARE TRYING to compete with large banks by coming up with more convenient and cheaper ways of delivering the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

Officials of the local remittance giant Western Union yesterday said the company was expanding its operations in the Philippines by about 20 percent by adding to its existing network of 5,000 money-transfer locations.

The expansion would involve tie-ups with rural banks, pawnshops and convenience stores, Patricia Riingen, Western Union Phil. vice president, told a press conference yesterday.

Riingen said the Western Union expansion would bolster annual in-bound remittances by encouraging OFWs and other Filipinos abroad to use official channels instead of the usual "*padala*" system, or asking someone to personally carry the cash.

Money-transfer firms charge less than banks for transferring money. Moreover, they deliver the funds right into the recipient's doorstep.

Riingen said most banks take between two to three days to effect a transfer. They also collect "hidden charges," depending on inter-bank arrangements, from the OFWs' remittance.

She said the Western Union's state-of-the-art technology enables customers to send or receive money anywhere in the world within minutes, even if the recipient does not have a bank account.

More and more nurses in the United States, entertainers in Japan and skilled workers in the Middle East, are using money-transfer facilities such as that offered by Western Union to remit cash to the Philippines, according to Riingen.

An Asian Development Bank study earlier projected that actual remittances from more than 8 million Filipinos abroad could reach as much as $22 billion if those that go through informal means were also counted. *Jerome Aning*

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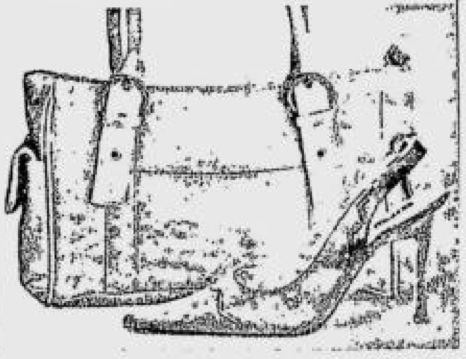

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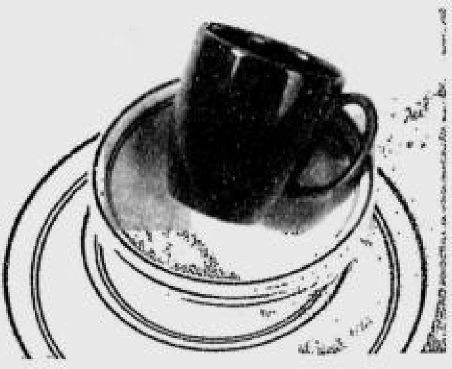

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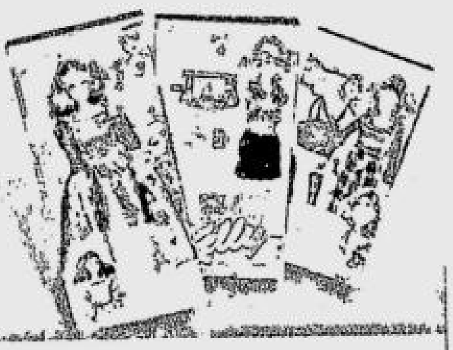

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Battering ram

EDITORIAL

IN SPANISH, "ESPERÓN" IS A NAUTICAL TERM that means "ram," and in the case of the next Armed Forces chief of staff, Hermogenes Esperon, the meaning is appropriate. He is a decorated officer, widely respected, even admired for his achievements in the field. He is clearly no desk-bound general. He is aggressive. And he is undoubtedly intensely loyal to his commander in chief.

The larger question, though, is whether what is politically—and militarily—good for President Macapagal-Arroyo is good for the country or even the AFP.

It is a sign of the times that Esperon is, even this early, already being compared in some quarters to the late Gen. Fabian Ver, who was also known for his intense—even blind—loyalty to his commander in chief, Ferdinand Marcos, to the extent that he became a cause of division within the military. Expertise and bravery in the field—which Esperon has in spades—are not essential for an AFP chief of staff. Administrative ability, a certain capacity for diplomacy and, most of all, integrity are the skills and virtues that the position requires.

For all its institutional defects, the AFP, until 2004, managed to preserve an overall appearance of avoiding political partisanship in the worst sense of the word. The last presidential election changed all that. Generals Esperon, Roy Kyamko (former chief of the Southern Command) and Gabriel Habacon (presently Southcom chief) all ended up with cameo appearances in the wiretapped phone conversations between Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and President Arroyo.

In June, the bicameral Commission on Appointments bypassed Esperon's promotion to lieutenant general, because the AFP could not or would not produce the Mayuga report on allegations of military participation in electoral fraud. Esperon, at the time, lashed out at Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Jinggoy Estrada. Since then, the report is said to have absolved Esperon, although its full contents have not been disclosed to the public. If his promotion was stalled then on questions surrounding his conduct during the last elections, there is even more reason to go over the same ground now that he is being promoted to the top military post.

While Esperon will surely be an enthusiastic enforcer of the President's policies, his promotion can only be perceived as a case of personal loyalty trumping institutional interests. The decision of the President, whose legitimacy is under a cloud, to give a fourth star to an officer implicated in her questioned—and questionable—reelection bid only fosters the appearance that they're partners in crime.

Esperson's promotion will neither foster calm or even reconciliation within the ranks of a military agitated by allegations of senior officers participating in electoral fraud. It will not smoothen relations with Congress or assuage the fears, rightly or wrongly, in certain quarters that the administration is showing a marked interest in pursuing authoritarian solutions to its political problems. It will not enhance the prestige of the Armed Forces, or inspire confidence in the senior officer corps.

Dispensing with the incumbent AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Genereso Senga and replacing him with Esperon do send the signal that both he and the President mean business. Whatever that business happens to be, we can be sure it will be conducted with a maximum of force and a minimum of regard for public opinion. While perhaps the administration has never had illusions that its conduct to date can ever dispel the skepticism over its motives and methods, perhaps it is more sure in its calculations that shock and awe will always carry the day.

There is no reason to think that the President will change her mind over her latest military appointment. Nor is it reasonable to expect that Esperon will back off from this fight. But it is reasonable to bring up the many troubling things that the appointment raises. After all, Congress can delay, or even block, Esperon's appointment. But having mounted the saddle at the AFP, no one—neither Congress nor the public—can pull him off it, so long as he enjoys the full support of his commander in chief.

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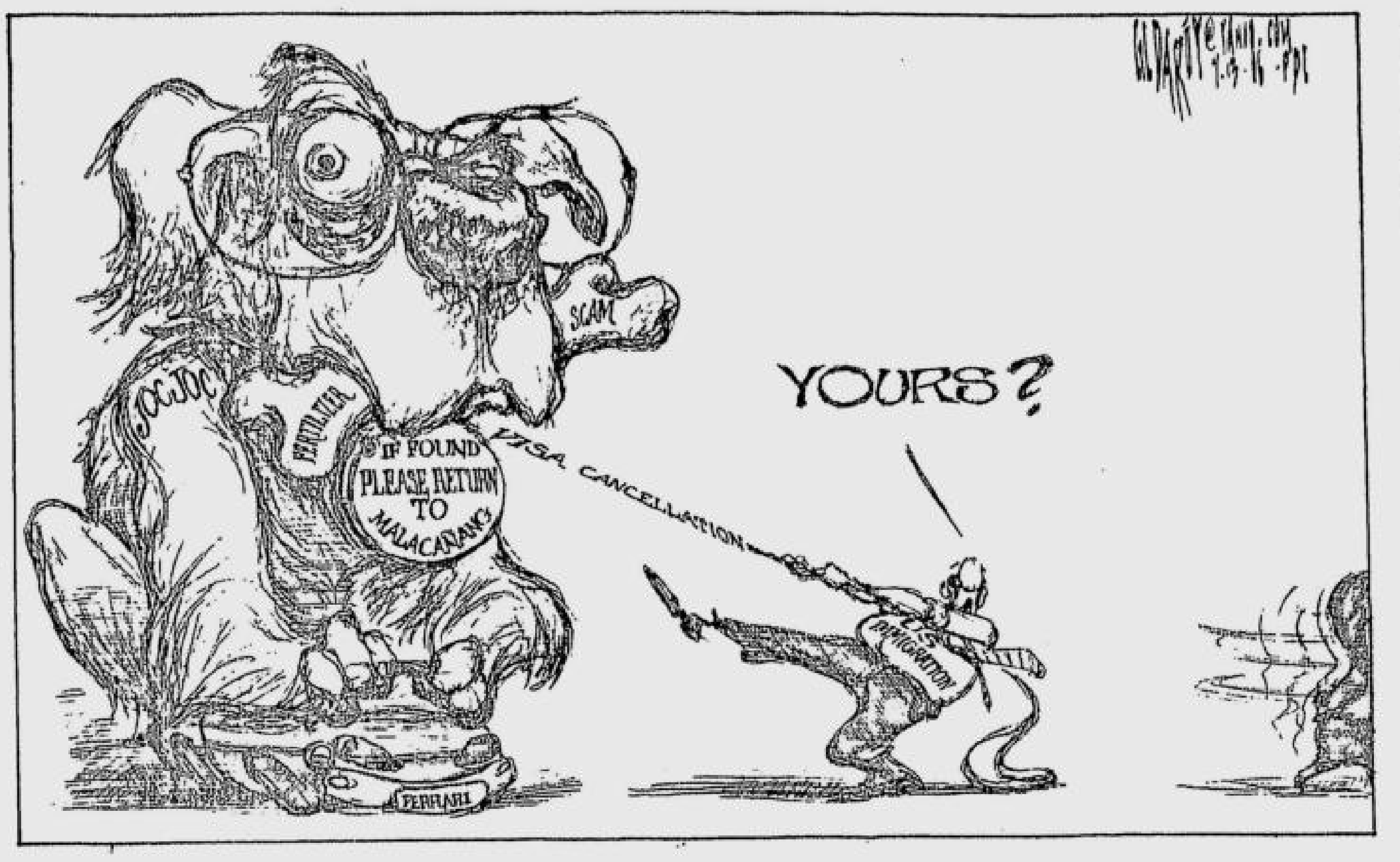

Biak na Bato may soon be Durog na Bato

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

BIAK NA BATO IN BULACAN IS AN IMPORTANT place in our history. It was here where Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros met and held secret rituals, and it was here where the Pact of Biak na Bato was concluded.

"Biak na bato" is Tagalog for "split rock." Here, a hill of solid rock rises to the sky. In the middle of the rock is a cleft so that it appears as if it was split in two. This cleft is the entrance to the caves where the Katipuneros hid from the Spaniards.

Because of the historic significance of the place, President Manuel L. Quezon in 1935 proclaimed 2,117 hectares of the area as the Biak na Bato National Park. But despite being proclaimed a protected area, Biak na Bato may soon disappear from the face of the earth if the government doesn't do something quickly. It turns out now that this massive hill is not made of ordinary rock. It is made up of a rare, rose-colored and expensive marble.

Miners or quarry operators, all but one of them illegal, are tearing the rock down with explosives, machines and pick and shovel to get the marble and even the marble dust. There are now at least 24 illegal marble cutting, limestone processing and aggregate crushing plants in Bulacan, all frantically tearing down Biak na Bato.

Only one of them, Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp. (RMDC), has a valid license from the Bureau of Mines and an Environment Compliance Certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is not operating now. However, dozens of illegal small-scale miners are operating there. Murders have been committed, and Bulacan's own governor is facing plunder charges before the Ombudsman because of this.

How did this happen? How can this be happening in a country with a democratic government like ours?

According to records filed in court, it goes back to the Commonwealth era, when Quezon declared Biak na Bato on Mt. Nabio as a national park. In 1982, Dr. Alejandro de la Concha, Pedro de la Concha, Dr. Rufo Guzman and Dr. Lourdes Sempio Pascual were able to convince President Marcos that part of Biak na Bato belonged to their family since 1896 by virtue of a "Titulo Royal de Possessoria de Sr. Joaquin de la Concha" covering an area of 5,000 hectares. In June 1982, Marcos issued Proclamation 2204 excluding 330 hectares of solid marble deposits from the national park, and this exclusion was approved by the Batasang Pambansa in the same year. Meanwhile, the group formed for the mining of the marble deposits and was subsequently given a quarry license.

RMDC started the development of the area by building roads and bunkers in 1982, but in 1986 Environment Secretary Ernesto Maceda cancelled its quarrying license. RMDC went to court and won in the regional trial court of Quezon City and in the Court of Appeals. The government appealed the decision to the Supreme Court where the case is now pending.

In the meantime, illegal miners, using dynamite, crude quarrying methods and equipment, flourished in the area. Somebody with the same surname as Dr. Lourdes Sempio Pascual, president of RMDC, using a "falsified Deed of Assignment" wherein Pascual purportedly gave to him all the rights in RMDC, issued to still another person an authority to conduct mining activities on the quarry site. Thus, impostors were able to usurp possession of the quarry site from RMDC.

In 1999, according to documents on file with the Department of Justice, Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz allegedly "became interested in the quarry site of RMDC." She convinced Pascual to give her an "operating agreement" to be able to give jobs to her constituents. And then she formed Tea Rose Marble Corp.

These intrigues had a violent and macabre aftermath. The chief of security of RMDC was murdered. The suspected mastermind was in turn murdered by a "Sparrow Unit" of the New People's Army. A day after his burial, his grave was forcibly opened and his coffin stolen. His nude corpse was left leaning on his grave.

The governor, according to records in the DOJ, acts like a miniature DENR. She allegedly issues small-scale mining permits, transport permits, environment clearance certificates, certificates of non-coverage of environmental impact assessments, etc., all of which the DENR has protested since provincial governments are not authorized to issue such certificates.

Biak na Bato National Park is now in the middle of a tug of war between vested interests. Environmental NGOs are with the governor in opposing mining at Biak na Bato. But RMDC claims that, under the cloak of protecting the environment, the plan is to have its Mineral Production Sharing Agreement cancelled and then open up the site to small-scale mining operations under the governor's control.

The DENR has to act fast here. Even as the wrangling goes on, quarrying continues and Biak na Bato is getting smaller. The director of mines can legally cancel the mining permit. After all, even if the land is privately owned, the marble deposits, by law, belong to the state. That is why there is a sharing agreement between the miner and the government.

But if RMDC's license is cancelled, small-scale mining operators will likely take over, using permits issued by the provincial government. I do not think our mining laws allow this, but the Local Government Code muddles things. Congress should straighten things out or else Biak na Bato and other historic places will be gone before our grandchildren realize what is happening.

Arresting Bolante: good governance by default

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

FORMER UNDERSECRETARY JOCELYN Bolante has snubbed five Senate hearings, casually flouting each Senate summons and at times flying out of the country days before the hearing. He skedaddles despite an immigration watch-list, a Senate contempt order, a Senate report and a plunder complaint filed before the Office of the Ombudsman implicating him as the "architect" in the diversion of agriculture funds into the election campaign war chest of President Macapagal-Arroyo in May 2004.

All this, under a government that has proclaimed itself as a regime under the rule of law! All this, under a President who has called upon her soldiers to lay down their lives to uphold the Constitution and defend the rule of law.

Get this: Bolante has admitted to signing the papers releasing P728 million for fertilizers and pesticides for GMA, the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program, and distributing them to congressmen and local politicians right in time for the presidential campaign. He has washed his hands, saying it was all "demand-driven," and that he gave only to those who asked. And yet, Rep. Teodoro Locsin of Makati, the country's financial district, says he never asked, never received, and yet was recorded to have gotten the fertilizer funding—this, for Makati's cement jungle where only the flower pots in the Ayala Center have any use for the illicit dung.

And it takes the US Immigration and Naturalization Service finally to arrest Bolante—two years after the scam was first exposed!

The Arroyo administration can hunt down coup plotters belonging to well-organized and richly funded (or so it claims) conspiracies. It can hound the enemies of the state, force their leaders to hole up in the Batasan, round up their followers in *sonas* historically rife with human rights abuses. But it couldn't find Bolante.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo was hassled at the airport and almost missed his flight to an international human rights conference, all because of a hold-order issued merely by the executive department—and boy, did the justice secretary publicly berate his immigration bureau chief for wimping out on the hold-order. Bolante was subject to a contempt order by the elected Senate, but was he ever asked at the airport why he was decamping in seeming haste?

(If I was the immigration officer, the first thing that would give me pause is that he is using a girl's name. You don't need a computerized watch-list to alert you to some facts, you know. Not that there is anything wrong about that. In fact, when I first read about the scam in the papers, and they all spoke of Jocelyn as a "he," I simply thought it was good old Pinoy English that could blithely utter "his husband and her wife," oblivious to the gender-bending innuendo. But shouldn't that unusual fact at least trigger off something, somewhere in the back of the brain, to ask, "So aren't you the guy ...?")

But this should be no surprise. This isn't the first time this government will play possum and pass the buck to another legal system. We are a proud independent republic, except when it is politically inconvenient.

"Garci" disappeared for the good part of a year. He supposedly flew to Singapore from Manila. But it took Singaporean consular records to show that he landed in the city-state, while Manila's immigration records show he never even left!

How about the former Armed Forces comptroller? It took US customs authorities to document his son's undeclared $100,000 at a US airport and his wife's sworn statement before them that this was merely "gratitude money from [AFP] contractors." Yet back home, when the Money Laundering Council obtained a freeze on his bank accounts, Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was able to make massive midnight withdrawals just before the courts stepped in. In the end, he was cleared of the watered-down charge of perjury, because either the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan was wanting in zeal or wit.

Look at the Marcos human rights cases. Only a Honolulu court has held the Marcoses to account for the disappearances, torture and arrests under the martial law regime. Not a single Philippine court has even dared, and the Philippine Human Rights Commission has infamously issued its good housekeeping seal to Imelda Marcos since, indeed, no derogatory records were on file against the great Imeldific herself.

So has GMA's Strong Republic become Gunnar Myrdal's Soft State, where "breaking rules and flouting laws is a cultural norm"? No, this government is perfectly capable of being strong when it comes to its enemies. The problem is when it comes to its friends. It can get an entire government—and a dulled public—to look the other way. It can finagle reprieves from the courts at will, citing neat technicalities that befuddle common sense. It's like that Monty Python comic skit showing security police at a checkpoint, searching every crevice of a car with flashlights and sticks, while on the roof rack there is a giant box labelled TNT, with a lighted fuse and connected to an old-fashioned alarm clock loudly ticking away.

Filipino lawyers spend four years in college, another four years in that psychological boot camp called law school, and another year preparing for that booby-trapped ordeal known as the bar exams. All that, in exaltation of a rule of law that has increasingly become fiction. But today, the mighty gods of the bar must confess that they have begun to resemble what the legal philosopher Roberto Unger calls "high priests who have lost their faith but kept their jobs."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Has RP reached the tipping point?

COMMENTARY

Conrado Sanchez Jr.

THIS MONTH, PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will deliver her State of the Nation Address. I suggest that she present the administration's government reorganization program as the defining theme of her address.

The President knew that the sin tax and expanded value-added tax bills would not pass Congress unless the sacrifice she was asking of our people was matched by streamlining the government service and trimming down the bloated government bureaucracy, with the purpose of cutting down public spending and demonstrating to the whole world that we were serious about restoring fiscal stability. She promised that following the passage of the EVAT, her administration would implement a thorough-going reorganization of government departments along with the privatization of government corporations and other public agencies. The task was assigned to then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin. And we heard little about the reorganization program since.

We are still in severe fiscal crisis. The passage of the EVAT and sin taxes allowed the Philippines to buy a little more time to prevent an Argentine-type crunch.

Argentina's economy crashed after its government failed to control spending, forcing it to default on the payment of its $132-billion foreign debt in December 2004. It was the largest sovereign-debt default on record. By October 2002, 57.5 percent of its people were living below the poverty line and about 27.5 percent were living in extreme poverty. Overnight, wide layers of the middle class became impoverished in a way that had not been seen in any industrial country since the 1930s. Over a quarter of the working population became unemployed and those who managed to keep their jobs suffered wage cuts of 20 percent.

Argentina's government seized pension funds to pay interest on its debts. Public sector workers suffered wage and pension cuts of 15 percent and were paid with coupons instead of money for months. The government also imposed a limit on how much people could withdraw from their bank accounts. All this brought about massive rioting.

But the biggest problem encountered by Argentines stemmed from the depreciation of the peso. With the currency trading at about three pesos to the US dollar, instead of the one-for-one exchange rate that prevailed before, many goods tied to the dollar became out of reach for many consumers. (If the same misfortune were to occur in the Philippines, the exchange rate would slump to P150 to a dollar.)

Economists said the "tipping point" was reached when the pool of tax revenues was unable to service rising foreign debt, which had grown $132 billion by 2001. That year, Argentina's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) amounted to $268.83 billion. Hence, the tipping point was reached when its foreign debt equaled nearly half the country's economic output—49.66 percent to be exact.

Records show that by the end of 2005, the Philippines' foreign debt amounted to $66.12 billion, easily more than double the debt left by the spendthrift Marcos administration. On the other hand, our GDP added up to only $97.65 billion in 2005. It is very disturbing to note that our foreign debt is now equivalent to 67.71 percent of our total output of goods and services!

The Argentine economy crashed when fiscal mismanagement allowed its foreign debt to grow to one-half of the country's GDP. The Philippine government managed to get away with a foreign debt amounting to more than two-thirds of the country's annual output.

Has the Philippines reached its tipping point? Let our first-rate economic experts decide that. However, the statistics show a very dismal picture.

In a recent article, Romeo Bernardo, a former undersecretary of finance, noted that after the passage of the EVAT, the government achieved a kind of "graveyard stability." But he warned: "The biggest risk now is squandering revenue gains from the VAT to score short-term political points."

The level of our foreign debt will continue to rise, sin taxes and VAT notwithstanding. This year, total foreign borrowings is projected at $1.4 billion, according to the Department of Budget and Management. This does not include additional domestic borrowings of P56 billion, money that could be put to more productive use by the private sector. Officially, the DBM announced that the consolidated public sector deficit for 2006 will be P128 billion.

The state of our fiscal affairs is still manageable. However, we cannot afford the near-term risk of an unsustainable foreign debt burden. The fiscal problem should be addressed promptly and in an orderly way. The first step loaded the already cash-strapped public with burdensome new taxes. To avert an Argentine-type crunch, the second painful but necessary step is to shrink the bloated government bureaucracy and privatize government corporations.

The Filipino people don't deserve the wrenching, confiscatory deflation imposed by the government of Argentina on its citizens not so long ago.

Conrado Sanchez Jr. is a former governor of the Board of Investments and worked with the United Nations for 18 years.

Tempest at PNU

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A SPATE OF INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS, TIMED with the opening of the school year, focused on the need for improving the quality of teacher education in the country. Experts said many public school teachers lacked training in and the most basic qualifications for the subjects they taught. Which explains, they said, the declining quality of education in the country. In some shocking instances, students even graduate from high school actually illiterate—proof of the failure of the education system, and of the inadequacy of their teachers.

For more than 100 years now, the Philippine Normal University has been the country's premier teacher-training institution. Its main campus in Manila and four provincial campuses all together prepare some 12,000 students for teaching and for assuming administrative positions in educational institutions. Though the number of PNU graduates is but a small portion of the country's teacher corps, the university is still quite influential in the field, not least because its faculty undertakes the crucial responsibility for in-service training and for setting academic standards and educational trends.

That's why it's unfortunate, to say the least, that at a time when the nation is focused on teacher education and mustering the political will needed to address shortcomings within the educational system, PNU finds itself embroiled in a controversy that not only pits its faculty, administrative staff and student body against the administration, but also undermines the capacity of the institution itself to undertake its proper role in addressing the present crisis in public education.

* * *

ON THE SURFACE, the controversy at PNU seems only about its present leadership, particularly the choice of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as its new president.

Meeting with four senior faculty members, all of whom have served the university for more than a decade (decades, in fact) and who held administrative positions before they resigned in protest weeks ago, it was made clear to me that the protesting faculty, administrative staff and students have nothing personal against Barbo.

But the manner by which Barbo was named by the Board of Regents, they said, constitutes "abuse of discretion" by the members of the BOR and opens them to accusations of "politicizing" the process of selection.

In a statement, the protesters said that though the power to appoint the university president "rests solely in the BOR," it declared itself "accountable to the PNU community" when it created a search committee to find the best candidates for the position. "The criteria set by the search committee for the presidency…manifested the board's commitment to a process designed to get the best person for the job."

And yet, say the representatives, when Barbo emerged "a far third" among the candidates, based on the criteria set by the search committee, the BOR not only ignored the rankings, but even modified a key requirement set not by PNU but by the Civil Service Commission.

Landing third among the five candidates placed Barbo among the short-listed candidates, but the mathematically inclined among the protesters have recomputed the scores and say Barbo actually ranked last among the five. Also, as a level 4 state university, the CSC requires that the minimum educational qualification for president is an "appropriate doctoral degree," though some members of the BOR say this is not mandatory requirement and amended it to "preferably" having a doctoral degree.

What has happened at PNU, says one of the faculty members, is no less than "the fall of meritocracy and the rise of mediocrity."

* * *

BARBO is a former three-term governor of Eastern Samar and also served as secretary of the Senate. He is remembered for administering the oath to witnesses during the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada and for his testimony on the authenticity of certain documents under his custody, marked by amusing lapses in English grammar and pronunciation.

But that, I am assured, is the least of the protesters' concerns. "If he would only step down voluntarily, we would support a new process of selection, even with an entirely new set of candidates, as long as the process is transparent and follows procedures designed to ensure only the most qualified candidate is selected," one faculty member stressed.

They are likewise skeptical about the claim that Barbo's most prominent qualification as PNU president is his "high potential for raising funds from Congress." The other candidates, they point out, have strong links with national and international agencies and organizations, meaning they have much broader networks and greater fundraising potential.

* * *

BUT it's not just the presidency of PNU that's at stake in this controversy, say the protesters.

The way the members of the BOR, or their designated representatives, conducted the selection of Barbo, they said, points to inherent weaknesses in RA 8292, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization Act, which vested sole power in the boards of regents of the various state colleges and universities for the appointment of the president and other senior officials.

Conceptualized with the apparent goal of strengthening the autonomy of these institutions and to minimize politicking, the law instead, says Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño, has laid the ground for "political patronage … winning over integrity and scholarship in the academe." To this end, Casiño and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Rosales are planning to file resolutions calling for an inquiry into Barbo's appointment as well as the possible amendment of RA 8292.

Superman, Pacquiao and our classical artists

COMMENTARY

Pablo A. Tariman

THE MOST VISIBLE AND SALEABLE COMMODITIES today are no doubt "Superman," Manny Pacquiao and the show-biz intrigues on the Boy Abunda-Kris Aquino TV show "The Buzz."

The box-office success of "Superman" has turned everything that has anything to do with it (costumes, audio recordings, etc.) into best sellers. Pacquiao's recent triumph over Oscar Larios has made some people propose that boxing be added to the school curriculum. And the high TV rating of "The Buzz" has bagged for Aquino and Abunda generous advertising contracts. When we read the newspapers, listen to the radio, watch television or surf the Net, Pacquiao is always there as newsmaker or product endorser.

In 1975, a 73-year-old woman conductor named Antonia Brico was addressing a press conference at the Cultural Center of the Philippines when she was asked by music critic Rosalinda Orosa if she was bothered by the workouts of Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the Folk Arts Theater just a block away. Brico replied: "They don't bother me. But it's an outrage and a total disgrace to pay a boxer a million dollars just to have him punch someone on the nose while musicians can hardly make a living." Obviously agitated, she added, "Even if I were given a free ticket to the Ali-Frazier fight, I wouldn't watch it."

Recently, a newspaper reader wrote that Pacquiao is a model of discipline, but not all the adulation he is receiving entitle him to be consecrated on the same pedestal as Dr. Jose Rizal. What the reader was probably trying to say is that our countrymen who succeed in their chosen professions are all worthy of emulation. But are we not in fact endorsing these role models as top moneymakers rather than models of discipline?

It is quite obvious that other role models who excel in their respective fields but who don't get the attention of the media are largely ignored by both the public and business. First-rate Filipino artists in the field of music have been winning international competitions and getting standing ovations, but they seldom get to endorse beer or shopping malls.

In "Superman," there is a part where the music of Bach is played while the villain is closing in on the hero's former girlfriend and her son. And there is another part where the son plays the piano to distract Superman's nemesis, and the scene ends with the grand piano crushing the villain's assistant. The message here is that music can tame the savage beast.

Last month, music lovers in Bacolod and seminarians of the Sacred Heart Seminary were treated to romantic piano concertos by pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes. During the post-concert open forum, some seminarians said that the music brought them to another world. Another one said the concert allowed him to look into himself and "rewind" his life. The rector added that because of its ability to transform listeners, music is probably one way of making us feel God's presence.

In our present obsession with Superman and Pacquiao, it is necessary for us to be reminded about other role models in other fields, especially classical music which is suffering from neglect. The Superman or Pacquiao of classical music is, without doubt, Cecile Licad who, like the boxing sensation, puts in eight hours of practice daily to stay in good shape for her next performance. Among the younger generation of pianists, the one who has caught Licad's attention is Oliver Salonga who, again like Pacquiao, also observes a strict regimen of daily practice.

Salonga's talent was first showcased when he won twice in the National Music Competition for Young Artists. He went on to win two concerto competitions in the United States. When Gemma Cruz Araneta heard Salonga play with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, she told me, "This young talent is showing us that this country has hope."

Recently, there was an outcry in Bacolod over the young getting addicted to sex videos. One reason for this may be that the young are not exposed to other sources of gratification, like classical music which is food for the soul.

"He is almost like a machine," Larios told his countrymen when he was asked why he lost to Pacquiao.

"She attacks the keyboard like a devil," wrote a music critic in Croatia after hearing Licad's performance. Come to think of it, first-rate musicians and boxers have one thing in common: they practice discipline in body and spirit to come up with an unforgettable performance.

When boxers triumph with broken bones and faces, they epitomize the extent to which the body can withstand shock and pain. When classical musicians work out daily on the piano and get a standing ovation, they show us that there is something beyond the physical force that pianists unleash on the piano, something that makes us reflect on the nobility of the human spirit. And when the performance ends, we are back to being human again.

Let's cheer Pacquiao and Superman, but let's not forget what a Licad and a relatively unknown Salonga can do to revive pride in our country and hope for our countrymen.

Pablo A. Tariman organizes concerts of the country's leading artists and writes on the side.

Good food

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IN A RECENT ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN TIME MAGAZINE, former US President Bill Clinton reminisces about his childhood in Arkansas and the meals served at his uncle's home that included "a ham or a roast, corn bread, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, peas, lima beans, fruit pies and bottomless flagons of iced tea."

Good food and the good life? Not quite. Clinton says those foods contributed to his problem with obesity that led to a close brush with death in 2004, when he had to undergo a quadruple bypass operation.

Clinton has now partnered with the American Heart Association in launching an ambitious project that aims "to stop the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity" in the United States by 2010.

Overweight, underweight

Where do we in the Philippines stand? The Food and Nutrition Research Institute's 2003 National Nutrition Survey found that among 6- to 10-year-olds, 26 percent were underweight, 36 percent were short and 1 percent were overweight. Among 11- to 19-year-olds, 16 percent were underweight and 4 percent overweight.

To tackle these problems, we hold classes for mothers in health centers that include nutrition education. And in schools, health education includes some talk about nutrition. But I wonder how far nutrition education will go amid the bombardment of advertising and other marketing gimmicks from junk food manufacturers and fast-food chains.

Even worse, the Department of Health and the Department of Education are themselves becoming unwitting partners of these business interests. I was alerted to this problem recently, when I met with a group of municipal health officers, part of a joint project between Ateneo de Manila's Leaders for Health Project and the Department of Health's Doctor to the Barrios program. These are doctors who serve some of the most impoverished and remote towns in the country.

All of them point to child undernutrition as a major problem in their towns and sadly, they also blame both the health department and education department for contributing to the problem. Their main peeve: the use of instant noodles in school feeding programs. These noodles not only have almost zero nutritional value, but also have unacceptably high levels of sodium, which could contribute to kidney problems and high blood pressure. Yet, the DOH puts its seal of approval on these products if they are "fortified" with vitamins. It's a token move: the vitamin content just doesn't offset the possible harm of these foods. Worse, public schools have been distributing these instant noodles to the children, which reinforces the misconception, which is already widespread among Filipino homes, that such noodles are "good food."

Trojan horses

The physicians told me that the DepEd actually has an administrative order banning junk food from schools. Yet by distributing instant noodles in the schools, DepEd administrators are violating the same administrative order.

As for the other types of junk food—chips and candies and *chicheria*, as well as soft drinks—a quick tour of our schools, both public and private, and including my own beloved University of the Philippines, will show that the stuff continues to be sold in school canteens. Another problem would be all those fast-food joints strategically located near the schools.

My nutritionist friends will attest that some of the fast foods can be even more problematic than the usual junk foods sold in *sari-sari* stores. Even worse, these fast foods are expensive, draining the already meager budgets that parents have for their children's schooling.

The distribution of instant noodles in school is like having a Trojan horse that brainwashes the children into the worst misconceptions possible about nutrition.

Walking time bombs

Let's go back and look at some initiatives in other countries to reverse the tide of school malnutrition. Last September, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation that sets limits on the fat and sugar content in foods sold in schools. To be approved for sale in schools, the food product has to have less than 4 grams of fat for every 100 calories. Moreover, no food product containing more than 400 calories can be sold. California also bans the sale of soft drinks in elementary and high schools. The fruit juices that can be sold will also have a limit on the amount of sweeteners.

In England, new regulations on school foods will also go into effect in September 2006. The ban is simple but wide in scope: schools will no longer be selling chocolates, crisps and fizzie drinks (translation for the last two terms: that's chips and soft drinks). There will also be a crackdown on "substandard burgers and bangers" (I love these English slang words: those are hamburgers and sausages or hot dogs).

The British move came after TV chef-celebrity Jamie Oliver launched a campaign against junk food in schools. Oliver isn't just working for a ban, he's urging schools themselves to prepare better meals for the kids, using fresh and nutritious ingredients.

Back to Clinton. He's fighting not just to ban junk foods but also to require higher standards for food in general. And in schools, he wants more exercise programs.

Can we afford such reforms? I think so. We need to review regulations on the production and marketing of foods, especially for children, including all those joint projects between government agencies and food companies.

The nutrition classes in health centers and schools should be intensified, but we have to teach by good example and modeling, making sure the students see teachers and administrators practice what they preach. We can't just ban bad foods. We need to offer alternatives, and that means training school canteen concessionaires and the vendors outside the schools to serve low-cost but nutritious (and clean) foods?

Clinton has called American obese children "walking time bombs" because they will later pose a tremendous strain on the American health care system. Our "walking time bombs" are probably more serious as we deal with both obese and underweight children struggling later with health problems even as they become even more nutritionally illiterate parents than the ones we have today. I'm already seeing many of my students at UP having no nutritional sense at all: they can't cook, and subsist on junk foods. Sometimes, they tell me, "Oh, I do buy food from restaurants." But check around, and you'll find that those *turo-turo* and restaurants also use instant noodles, instant *arroz caldo*, instant junk.

Oh, but I fear we might have Filipino children growing up never knowing the joys of good food—good as in nutritious, as well as good sensuously, sensually, *masarap*, *malinamnam* (delicious).

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'Political' clergy sign of a failed Church

I WAS AN ALTAR BOY IN MY hometown in Cagayan Valley. We altar boys did odd jobs at the residence of the priests assigned to our parish. The oddest was oiling the creaking bed of the assistant parish priest who—before dawn and as the old parish priest was saying the first Mass at 5 in the morning—would order us to fetch and shield from the barking dogs his mistress, a married woman.

The old parish priest later died in an accident. His assistant, I heard, was defrocked after siring two children by his mistress. Years later, I would meet his mistress again, by then a *mama san* in an Ermita bar.

These thoughts came back to me as I ponder on the intrusion into politics of several bishops—Deogracias Iñiguez, Oscar Cruz, et al, Of course, priests who want to lord it over politics as well—and over other things worldly, such as the one I cited earlier—have been with us the moment the friars set foot in our country. Padre Damaso and Padre Salvi seemed to have sprung out from Jose Rizal's novels and lived up to this day.

This is not to deny the rights of priests as citizens or the legitimacy of the points raised by Iñiguez, Cruz, et al. Election cheating, graft and corruption, *jueteng*, among others, are indeed moral issues and are, therefore, within the province of religion.

But if we talk about morality and the gross decline of moral values that the bishops want us to take note of, perhaps, we also need to talk about why it came to this, despite the fact that we are the bigger of the only two predominantly Christian countries in Asia. The reason is, the Church has failed in its mission despite almost 500 years of missionary work in our country. The fact is we continue to be confronted by the same issues Rizal wrote about. Why, the Church up to this time even holds on to vast tracts of lands which are exempt from tax and agrarian reform.

If people continue to cheat, lie, steal and gamble—about which the good bishops are ranting—what would that say of our priests and high priests? Iñiguez, Cruz, et al. may be just as frustrated as we are. That is why they now want to engage directly in politics. Yet, why not? They just need to be honest about it. That should be a good and fresh start. We may yet have honest politicians.

—DANILO DE AUSTRIA CONSUMIDO,
danicon@gmail.com

A bloodless way to end communist rebellion

NOW THAT THE GOVERNMENT has declared all-out war against the communists (as every administration did), this bit of unsolicited advice might still make possible a bloodless campaign against the longest-running Maoist rebellion in Asia.

First, the government has to seriously implement genuine agrarian reform. This will free poor farmers, who comprise about 75 percent of the population and most of whom are found in the countryside, from the oppressive and exploitative shackles of landlords and traders. Thus, they will earn more; as it is now, a bigger part of the proceeds from the sale of their produce goes to landowners and the manipulative traders and usurers. But with genuine agrarian reform, the farmers' living conditions will improve and the "agrarian revolution" of the New People's Army will become a hollow promise.

Second, implement "nationalist industrialization." At present, what we have in this country are extractive industries and the assembly lines owned and operated by multinational corporations. They do create jobs, but on a very limited scale, prompting many talented and skilled Filipinos to seek employment—no matter how "lowly" the job may be—abroad. Meanwhile, those who get employed here face job insecurity and various forms of abuse.

Without nationalist industrialization, we will remain a country of consumers and lowly workers, even as industrialized countries take advantage of our abundant resources, including our mineral wealth and human talents. I am not saying we do away with foreign business; we need them for, say, capitalization and technology. But without nationalist industrialization, we will always have millions of unemployed Filipinos who will be easy to recruit into the folds of rebels and criminals.

Third, eliminate corruption. We know the effects of corruption. Those in power get richer while the ordinary citizens become poorer. Public servants who are honest, including those in the Cabinet and the military, usually end up demoralized. Corruption is as serious as the first and second concerns mentioned above. If it goes unchecked, it is a sure formula for self-destruction.

Now, the question: Can the Arroyo administration accomplish these three goals in two, five or 10 years by adding P1 billion to the anti-insurgency budget and another P1 billion to the anti-corruption drive? I doubt. For GMA, pursuing these goals would be like trying to "eliminate" herself and her minions.

—JENO ALEGRE,
Ballesteros Village,
Balangasan District,
Pagadian City

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Confusing economic views and directions

THERE'S NO WAY THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY can move forward until and unless our economists and economic planners get their act together or make sense of themselves.

Consider this: Every time the peso strengthens vis-à-vis the dollar, the economists would caution against a very strong peso which, they say, would impact adversely on the competitiveness of our export industry, one of the country's engines of economic growth.

Just recently, when the peso was about to hit the P50-$1 rate, it was reported in the newspapers that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was forced to intervene in the exchange market to prevent the peso from gaining further strength versus the dollar.

Also recently, there were news reports that billions of pesos in potential government revenues are being squandered because of the indiscriminate granting of tax incentives or tax holidays to industries. Such incentives are turning out to be unnecessary and redundant, because the grantees, such as Smart and Globe, will invest anyway without those incentives.

And as if to add insult to injury, Lafayette Philippines Inc., a cause of environmental pollution in Sorsogon, was reported to have been given P4.5 billion in tax breaks. One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist, or have a post-graduate degree from Harvard, to figure out that it would be better to give these billions of pesos worth of redundant tax breaks to the export industry while allowing the peso to freely appreciate or strengthen to the highest level possible.

Common sense tells us that a strong peso is very good for the country for a hundred reasons, such as, a lower debt burden, lower oil prices which mean lower production costs and lower prices of goods and electricity, lower fares in public transport, etc.

Congress, especially the Senate, should investigate the indiscriminate grant of tax incentives as it is clearly disadvantageous to the government and may, in fact, be a source of graft. The environmental groups opposed to mining, together with the commission that investigated the Lafayette incident, should study whether it is appropriate to ask the courts to stop the operation of Lafayette, given the huge tax breaks extended to this firm which is clearly inimical to the interest of the public.

It is downright absurd and inconceivable to grant so much favors to a company which is out to exploit the country's resources and whose track record in caring for the environment has been proven wanting.

—ROBERT DEFENSOR,
robert_defensor@yahoo.com.ph

Death penalty abolition: an error of judgment

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO BElieves that in signing into law the bill abolishing the death penalty, she did the Filipino people a favor, I think she is utterly mistaken. The abolition is a great disappointment to the aggrieved families of the victims of heinous crimes.

During the last presidential campaign, she promised to push through with the execution of death penalty convicts. But after the campaign, she declared a moratorium on death penalty executions. Given this background, can you blame people if they continue to distrust Ms Arroyo and don't believe in her words?

Many criminal lawyers will tell us that practically all persons accused of heinous crimes fear the prospect of being sentenced to death. For this reason, the death penalty is obviously considered by many right-thinking Filipinos as a deterrent to the commission of heinous crimes.

By way of clear demonstration, the brutal murder of Mayor Delfino Albano of Ilagan, Isabela took place about two days after the signing of the law by Ms Arroyo. And we continue to hear from the media more and more heinous crimes being committed.

The next Congress should immediately correct this error of judgment. May I ask our future legislators to review carefully the sentiment of our people on this matter as well as the present law abolishing the death penalty.

—ARTURO M. TOPACIO,
UE Law Alumni Association
Hall of Fame awardee, Manila and Cavite City

Now a typhoon, 'Florita' leaves 10 dead

By Blanche S. Rivera, Christine O. Avendaño and Dona Pazzibugan

TROPICAL STORM "FLORITA" BECAME A full-fledged typhoon yesterday after leaving at least 10 people dead and another 10 injured as it headed toward Taiwan, dumping heavy rains and shutting down schools and offices.

But Florita has weakened later in the afternoon based on latest satellite images caught by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

"Metro Manila will continue to experience occasional rains (today), but it will not be as frequent as in the past days," Pagasa weather forecasting chief Herman Ngohayon said.

Packing maximum sustained winds of 110 kph near the center and gustiness of up to 140 kph, Florita was located 370 km north northeast of Basco, Batanes.

Storm signal no. 3 remained in the Batanes and Calayan groups of islands in northernmost Philippines while storm signal no. 2 was still up in northern Cagayan, Apayao and Ilocos Norte.

Mt. Province, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos Sur, Benguet and La Union and the rest of Cagayan were still under signal no. 1, experiencing winds between 30 to 60 kph.

Ngohayon said gale warnings were still up in Luzon as the weather bureau monitored big waves in the west coast, making inter-island travel inadvisable.

Classes resume

Classes in Metro Manila and in Regions 3 (Central Luzon) and 4 (Southern Tagalog) will resume today, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But classes in Regions 1 (Ilocos) and 2 (Cagayan) and the Cordillera Autonomous Region would remain suspended, she said.

President Arroyo made the announcement following a briefing she got from weather officials on the status of typhoon Florita, whose strong rains and wind have been sweeping the country the past two days.

Pagasa weather bureau chief Nathaniel Cruz told the President that the weather was expected to clear up by Sunday.

10 dead

Florita left in its wake 10 people dead, and 10 injured, according to an official count from the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

CHILDREN frolic in the trash on Roxas Boulevard washed ashore by big waves. EDWIN BACASMAS

The latest fatalities were Edgar Bansit, 32 and Jonathan Enese, 23 who were struck by lightning in Remedios, Lubao, Pampanga on Wednesday.

The body of 10-year old Ariel Prensillo, who was carried away by floodwaters in Bgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City, has also been recovered.

The other fatalities were Juanita Tagaca, 61, who drowned in Sarrat, Ilocos Norte; Teresita Villegas, 42; her sons Gilbert Villegas, 4; Jose Enrique Villegas, 3; and Jose Alberto Villegas, 3, from New Cabalan, Olongapo City; Perfecto Gaerlan, 54, from Baguio City; and Eduardo Tinedero, 53, from Tanay, Rizal, who both died from a landslide.

Two children were reported missing and feared dead: 4-year old Osios Balbawang Jr. who was reported missing after his family's home in La Trinidad, Benguet was destroyed by landslide; and 7-year old Gracel Benito who was reported carried by floodwaters in Baguio City.

The NDCC said landslides and floodwaters have displaced 22,762 persons: 13,830 in La Union, 866 in Ilocos Norte, 200 in Ilocos Sur and 7,866 in Benguet.

Florita has also wrought around P28.745 million in damages to roads and bridges in Baguio City and the provinces of Benguet, Mt. Province and Ilocos Norte, according to the NDCC.

Forecasters said Florita was expected to make landfall over Taiwan this morning.

The typhoon is then forecast to move into the Taiwan Strait and make its second landfall along China's Fujian province this afternoon.

In Taiwan, domestic flights to the east of the island were grounded yesterday, officials said. Ferries between Taiwan and Green Island and Orchid Island also were halted, stranding more than 100 tourists.

Meteorologists on the island warned residents to prepare for torrential rains that could trigger flash floods and mudlsides.

The typhoon's wide outer bands were still spreading across the entire half of the Philippine Sea and Northern Luzon, bringing sometimes strong winds reaching 60 kph, officials said.

Schools in six regions, including Baguio and in Metro Manila, were closed for a second day.

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120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	11,071 kms	P1,880,000
316i (E36)	Cosmos Black	1997	71,934 kms	P580,000
316i (E46)	Titanium Silver	2002	20,023 kms	P1,100,000
316i (E46)	Black Sapphire	2003	49,783 kms	P1,200,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	34,804 kms	P1,450,000
318i Limousine (E46)	Orient Blue	2003	44,467 kms	P1,420,000
318i Executive (E46)	Orient Blue	2004	32,692 kms	P1,750,000
320i	Arctic	2005	11,000 kms	P2,100,000
325i Executive (E46)	Titanium Silver	2003	21,650 kms	P1,750,000
520i Limousine	Oxford Green	2004	12,177 kms	P1,380,000
523i	Dunkel Blue	1997	82,145 kms	P1,100,000
523i Executive	Silver Grey	2006	7,609 kms	P3,900,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	17,463 kms	P2,800,000
530i Executive	Titanium Silver	2006	1,684 kms	P4,721,000
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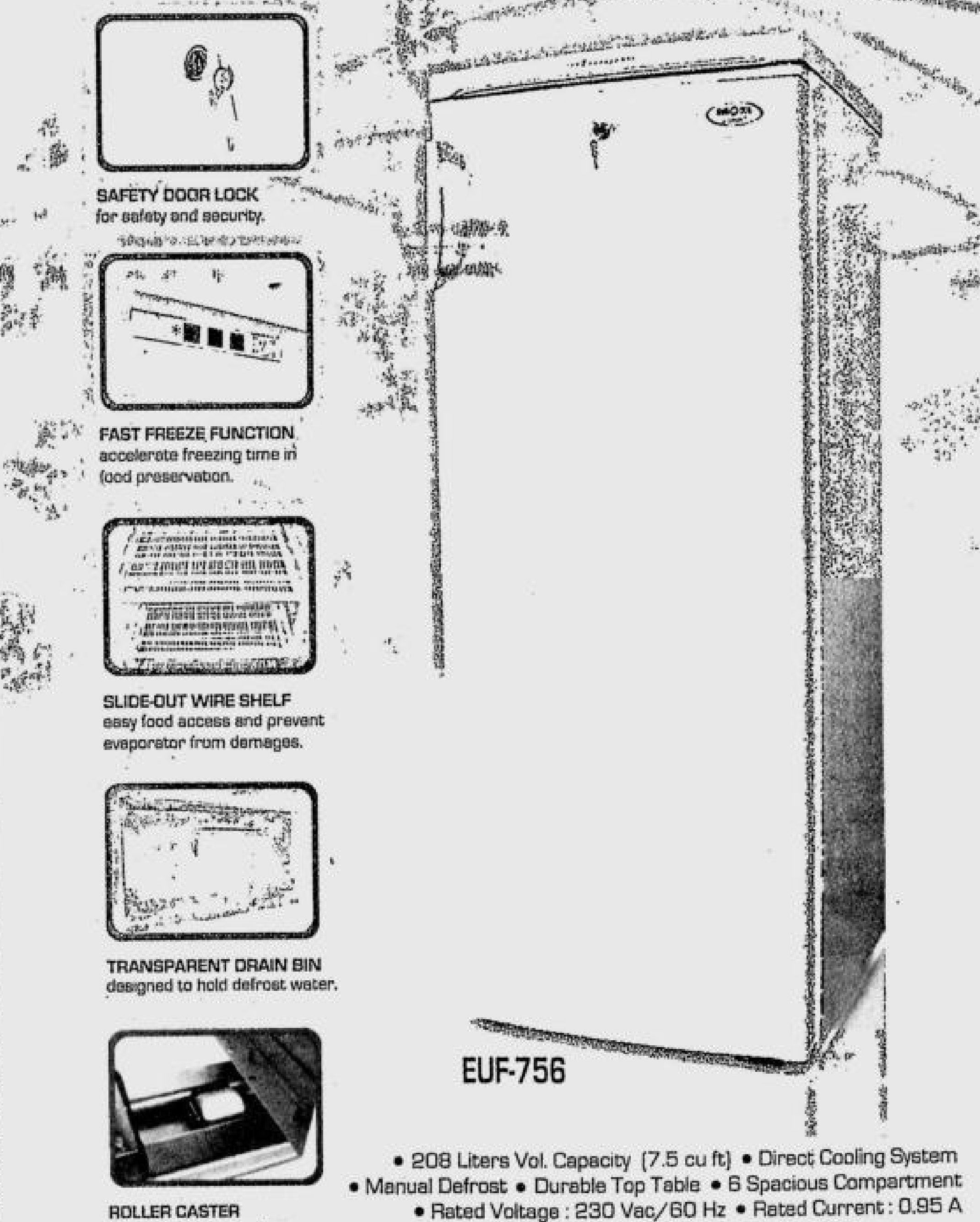

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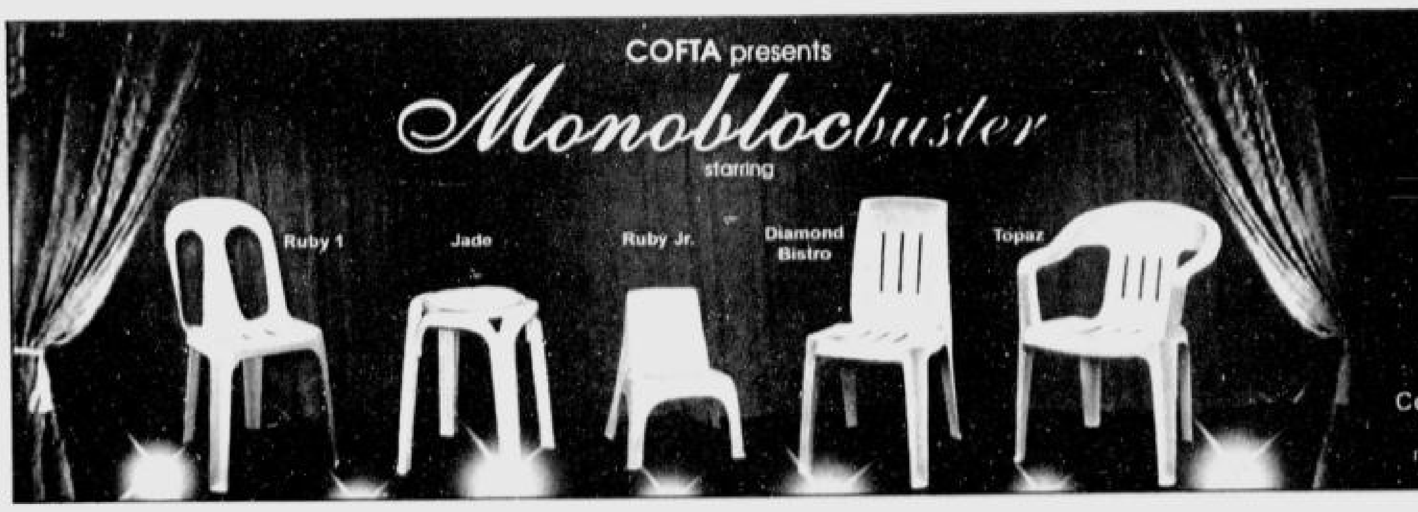

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Palace also wants Joc-joc home, says Ermita

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG ADDED ITS VOICE YESTERday to calls for the immediate return of ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante to shed light on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

"If we have to ferret out the truth about all these controversies, yes, he should come home and make a clean breast [of things]," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said at a briefing following a regional council meeting at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

'Within legal means'

But Malacañang, which is implicated in the fund mess, stressed that Bolante's homecoming should be done strictly within legal means.

"We must always follow the legal procedure, the rule of law, and not mob rule where anyone who shouts in the street for the investigation of an issue [will get what he wants]. The government will not initiate [moves for Bolante's return]. It has to be the proper agency," said Ermita.

Senators had called for Bolante's extradition upon learning of his arrest in the United States.

No case

But citing his consultation with Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Ermita said the government could not request Bolante's extradition because no case had been filed against him.

"Secretary Gonzalez told me that the Senate had already terminated its investigation and submitted a report to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has not come up with any resolution as to what case can be leveled against Mr. Bolante. Ergo, there's no reason for us or for any government agency to ask the US government to extradite [Bolante]," Ermita said.

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER that the Office of the Ombudsman should speed up the investigation of the fertilizer fund scam so the matter can be used as basis to seek Bolante's extradition.

But this early, Gonzalez expressed doubt that Bolante could be forced to return anytime soon. He said Bolante was expected to fight extradition to the extent of seeking political asylum.

"I don't think he's being persecuted here for a political offense. The case is with the Ombudsman. It's not a political offense; it involves graft and corruption. Asylum can be granted if you are being persecuted," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

Reason for arrest

According to Ermita, the government must first establish the reason for Bolante's arrest.

"It could have been his expired visa, but we don't know that for a fact," said Ermita, who reiterated that Bolante was not arrested "because of representation from the Philippine government."

A senior Cabinet official, who asked not to be named because he was not permitted to talk on political issues, said the information relayed to the Palace was that Bolante was arrested by US immigration upon his arrival in Los Angeles from South Korea.

The source said Bolante was believed to have spent most of his time away from the Philippines in various European cities looking for business ventures.

Tipoff

The source also said the Palace was looking into the possibility that US authorities had been tipped off on Bolante's expired visa, and that the informers had timed it to coincide with the fresh impeachment drive against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We think somebody ratted on him, or it was a case of massive stupidity on his part to enter the US with a Philippine passport and an expired visa," the source said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye also clarified reports that Bolante had requested Malacañang's help in raising $100,000 bail for his temporary release.

"He has not requested any help from us," Bunye said. *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

Mystery deepens on Bolante arrest

From page A1

filed two separate cases of plunder in connection with the questionable release of P728 million and P1.1 billion in agriculture funds in 2004.

The respondents also included President Macapagal-Arroyo and several other Cabinet officials.

Chavez charged that the funds intended for farm inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides were distributed as largesse to Ms Arroyo's allies in the run-up to the May 2004 presidential election.

Bolante was arrested by US immigration officials upon arrival in Los Angeles from Seoul on July 7 because of a cancelled B1/B2 visa. *(See sidebar on this page.)*

He had a scheduled hearing on Wednesday (yesterday in Manila) in Los Angeles on his visa case, the DFA had earlier said.

Political asylum

Quoting sources in California, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Bolante was considering applying for political asylum in the United States.

"We received information about that as early as [Wednesday] night, and we got confirmation early yesterday morning that Bolante is considering it," Escudero said.

He said this indicated that Bolante might be planning to eventually "spill the beans on the administration."

According to Escudero, Bolante cannot credibly claim political persecution if he has the backing and protection of the Arroyo administration.

"You can't apply for political asylum if you're not being persecuted, so he has to speak against the government. But how can you claim that you're being persecuted if you're toeing the government line?" Escudero said.

Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez also said Bolante could not apply for asylum unless he broke his ties with the administration.

"How can someone considered to be one of the closest political allies of the powers that be in the Philippines apply for political asylum? That's only possible if he faces persecution for political reasons," Golez said, adding:

"In my opinion, he is not a victim of political persecution but a beneficiary of political protection here."

Ombudsman's move

Senators want the Office of the Ombudsman to speed up its investigation of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam and file charges against Bolante to facilitate his extradition to Manila.

Senate President Franklin Drilon proposed that the government cancel Bolante's passport to force his return.

Chavez echoed the lawmakers' position, but said Bolante should "redeem himself" by naming all the Palace officials involved in the "magnificent scam."

All about US visa

A BUSINESS OR B-1 VISA IS ISSUED TO A nonimmigrant visiting the United States for business-related activities such as consultation with associates, negotiation of contracts, and participation in professional conventions and conferences.

On the other hand, a tourist or B-2 visa is issued to one who is traveling for pleasure, visiting relatives, or seeking medical treatment.

Because most business trips include tourist activities, consuls usually issue a combined B-1/B-2 visa.

No guarantee for entry

A visa, however, does not guarantee entry into the United States. The immigration officer at the US port of entry may also deny the entry of a visa holder.

A B-1/B-2 visa holder may legally stay in the United States for a maximum of six months, depending on the decision of the immigration officer.

Aside from the basic requirements of passport, application forms, and fees, applicants for a B-1/B-2 visa are required to submit the details of their trip, evidence of their ties to their mother country, and their financial status, which may include bank statements, employment certification and audited financial statements.

According to the US Embassy website, "essentially, the visa officer needs to see that the applicant has compelling reasons to return to the Philippines."

Generally, B-1/B-2 visas issued to Filipinos are for multiple entries and are valid for five years.

Mel Lawrence de Guzman, PDI Research

"I think the best government agency that should pursue this is the Ombudsman, because the cases of Mr. Bolante have been with [that office] since over three months ago," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. told reporters.

"The pressure should be on the Ombudsman to shake off its lethargy and start doing its main objective of pursuing the case to its completion so it can refer the case to the Sandiganbayan," he said.

So far, Magsaysay said, he had not seen "any active pursuit of this very important case."

After wrapping up its inquiry on the fund scam in March, the Senate agriculture committee chaired by Magsaysay submitted its report as well as documentary and testimonial evidence to the office of Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

The committee recommended the filing of charges against Bolante and several other current and former agriculture officials for their key role in what it called "premeditated, systematic" agricultural theft.

Like the Mona Lisa

For starters, Chavez said, the Ombudsman should act on the motions he had filed requiring the respondents in the plunder cases to submit their counter-affidavits.

"The Office of the Ombudsman should start moving," he said in a phone interview, recalling that the motions had not been acted upon since the term of Simeon Marcelo.

"The motions have turned into a Mona Lisa: They just lie there and die there," Chavez said, playing on the lyrics of a Johnny Mathis song.

He added: "It's about time the Ombudsman performed its mandate as protector of the people, and not as protector of the government, the administration or its cohorts."

Magsaysay himself wrote Gutierrez as well as Constancia de Guzman, chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, yesterday to inquire into the status of their investigations.

With Bolante's arrest, "it is imperative that the necessary charges are immediately filed by the Office of the Ombudsman to facilitate his extradition to the country and to strengthen the Philippine government's grip on [him]," Magsaysay said in his letter to Gutierrez.

"The Filipino farmers and the people in general are all waiting that justice is served that may include the possible prosecution of officials, both former and active," he said.

In his letter to De Guzman, Magsaysay demanded to be informed on "the actions taken, the conclusions made, the names of witnesses called, the dossiers evaluated, the procedures followed, and all relevant information gathered."

The DFA's Asuque said that even if Bolante were being represented by his own lawyer, the consulate in Los Angeles would continue to provide assistance if requested.

"It is our obligation to [do so]," he said.

No basis to cancel passport

Asked yesterday if the Philippine government could request the cancellation of a Filipino citizen's US visa, Asuque said: "Sometimes you can request, but US immigration would still have to determine if that person violated any US laws. It's still US immigration that will decide on that."

The Senate, which last year ordered Bolante's arrest for his repeated snub of the inquiry into the fertilizer fund scam, has also requested the DFA to cancel his passport.

But Asuque said yesterday that there was no ground for the DFA to comply with the request.

"As we said in our previous statement, the Philippine passport law provides grounds for the cancellation of one's passport," Asuque said.

Among this is if the passport holder is a fugitive from justice or has been convicted of a crime, and if the passport is fraudulently obtained or tampered with, he said.

Impeachment case

Escudero said Bolante could help shore up the opposition's impeachment case against Ms Arroyo if he decided to tell all about the alleged use of the fertilizer funds in her 2004 election campaign.

The opposition has included the scam in the impeachment complaint it filed against the President.

Militant farmers groups yesterday refiled the complaint and called for Bolante's immediate extradition.

"Now that Joc-joc is behind bars, we must ensure that he would not again elude justice and that he would be punished for what could be the largest scam in Philippine history," said Willy Marbella, internal deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas.

"All efforts must be exerted to [prevent] Malacañang henchmen [from] buying his silence, skirting him off or covering up the scam," Marbella said.

Escudero said Bolante would be qualified to turn state witness if he could show that he was "not the most guilty" in the scam.

"I would encourage him to tell the truth ... But he must first state if his testimony has any worth. He can't immediately become a state witness when we don't know if he's going to tell the truth or just perpetuate lies," Escudero said.

Extradition

Magsaysay, Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had earlier called on the government to seek Bolante's extradition so he could be brought before the Senate and face investigation before the Ombudsman.

Corruption and fraud are extraditable offenses, the senators said. Under the RP-US Extradition Treaty, either country can extradite any person against whom the requesting state has issued an arrest warrant, or who has committed an extraditable offense in the state territory.

But House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said there was "no reason" for the government to request Bolante's extradition.

"There is no pending warrant against Joc-joc because even the Senate has finished its investigation on the fertilizer scam," Nograles said.

"Extradition is requested if one eludes arrest in the Philippines and our government requests the same. I think for now there is no reason to request extradition," he said.

Golez also said Bolante's case was "more of a deportation case than an extradition case."

Deportation case

"Extradition is government-to-government, assuming our government is initiating extradition. [But] I doubt that the government would initiate it," Golez said, adding:

"Deportation is a unilateral action of the US government, if it decides that Bolante is an illegal entrant or an undesirable alien. If deported, he can be met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by the Senate arresting team."

San Pedro 'a very humiliating . . .

From page A1

The last visit he made was sometime last year, the source told the INQUIRER.

Bolante was arrested on July 7 upon arriving at the Los Angeles International Airport from Seoul, South Korea, after his B1/B2 visa was cancelled by the USCIS.

It is a decent facility where detainees "are treated with respect," according to the source.

Still, the detainees are made to wear a scrub-like prisoner garb, he said.

"And when you talk to a detainee, there's a big, thick glass panel that separates the two of you. You're like in a cubicle and you talk to him over the phone. It's very similar to what we see in the movies," the source said.

"It is a very humiliating experience to be in that kind of a situation," he added.

The facility is heavily guarded and all visitors are "carefully screened."

"Visitors would be asked many questions before they are allowed in," the source said.

The San Pedro Service Processing Center website shows how stringent its rules for visitors are.

Dress code for visitors

Family, friends and minors—who have to be accompanied by an adult—can only visit on weekends and holidays.

"Contact visits are not permitted," the website said.

Visitors also have to follow a dress code.

For female visitors, "skirts and dresses shall extend to mid-thigh, seated. Slits in skirts and dresses shall rise no higher than mid-thigh, seated."

For male visitors, "muscle shirts, bare midriffs shirts and sleeveless shirts are prohibited."

For both male and female visitors, short-shorts, jogging shorts, cut-offs, and "other obviously inappropriate short garments" are prohibited," as well as gang "colors" and "other gang displays."

Phone calls 24/7

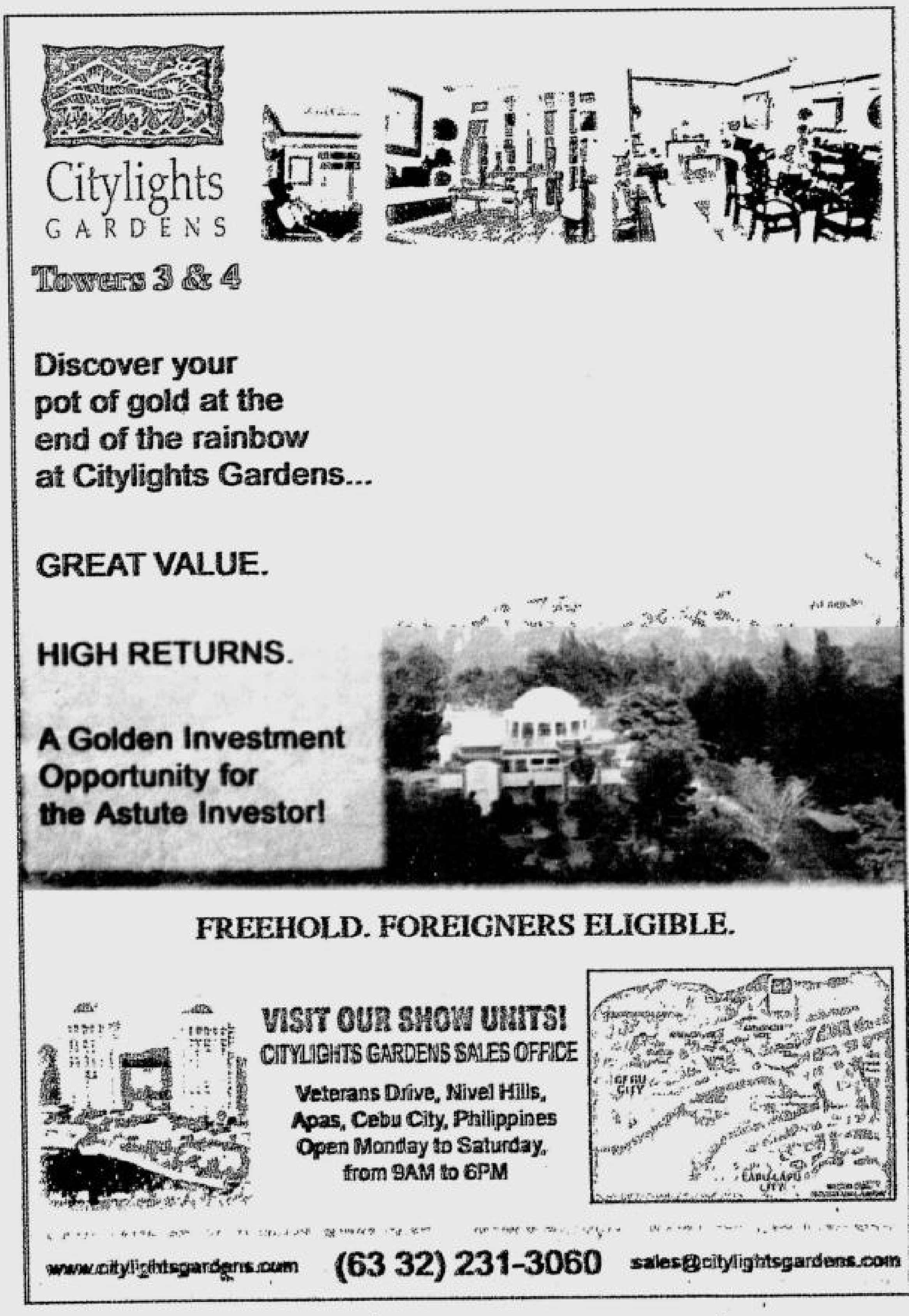
The website also stated that detainees' lawyers must provide a valid picture identification and bar card.

The facility allows detainees to make calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Family and friends may leave messages for them, too.

Detainees can also send and receive mail, following the facility's rules and guidelines.

The facility also provides medical care for its detainees.

The website said that all detainees "receive an initial medical and dental screening upon detainment at the detention facility by the United States Public Health Service, Department of Immigration Health Services."



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First-ever detox clinic set up for online game addicts

From page A1

send him somewhere and we looked around and there was nothing, so we started looking into it," said Bakker, who had struggled himself with drugs and alcohol in the past.

Smith & Jones began offering day programs to help gamers, both those playing online and those hooked on video games.

"There are groups, however, that don't easily change or those that come in for a day program and will tell you all the wonderful things you want to hear and go home and are online again," Bakker said.

Smith & Jones now offers in-patient programs for a dozen people at a time, lasting four to six weeks.

No time to pee, sleep

Those checking in have often put their lives—school, work, friends, personal hygiene—on hold to keep playing, using anything from Red Bull to cocaine to stay alert.

Tim, 21, who has not played for a month since doing the day program, said he hardly left his room for five years, gaining weight and using drugs.

Like many others, he started out with a handheld GameBoy when he was 12 but progressed to multi-player online games that offer open-ended stories set in virtual universes that can support tens of thousands of players.

"I couldn't go to the toilet because then I would have to leave . . . I would take an empty bottle and pee in it."

Games offered an escape from bullies at school, Tim said. He only sought help after his mother threatened to throw him out.

Sometimes, parents are partly to blame for their children's behavior, said Bakker, who was born in the United States.

114 million players

"Often there are parents who are happy that the kid is on a game, at least it is quiet and off the streets," he said. "Or, they'll say 'why don't you go play, while mom and dad talk'."

The pull of games such as World of Warcraft, the sword and sorcery game EverQuest, racing game Gran Turismo or the 2006 Fifa World Cup game translates into a billion-dollar industry.

The worldwide online games market is expected to grow to $13 billion by 2011 from $3.4 billion in 2005, according to market research firm DCF Intelligence.

Some 114 million people are expected to be playing online games by the end of 2006, according to DCF Intelligence.

Research suggests online game playing may trigger the release of the chemical dopamine in the brain. A study done in London's Hammersmith Hospital showed that increased levels of dopamine are roughly the equivalent of a dose of speed, an amphetamine that can be addictive.

Escaping problems

Countries, like South Korea and China, which boast the largest online games communities, are working with game operators on systems to discourage compulsive behavior.

Like many addicts, he said, gamers are often trying to escape personal problems or just the difficulty of growing up.

"The reality of being a 14-, 15-year-old kid is not fun, it's puberty and puberty is tough," he said. "And there are moments now where all you have to do is push a button and you're a superhero . . . There's a very enticing part about games."

The treatment offered by Bakker's firm is similar to that used to fight gambling or alcoholism. However, with gaming, the tricky part is the computer, which can hardly be avoided.

"Gamers cannot simply abstain from using computers, they are now an integral part of our lives," Maressa Hecht Orzack, founder of a computer addiction service at McLean Hospital in Boston, told New Scientist magazine.

'The terrorist inside'

"They must learn to normalize their computer use just as those with an eating disorder need to learn to eat in order to survive," said Orzack, a clinical psychologist.

Treatment for excessive game playing is not covered by health care insurance, so patients have to cover the cost themselves—$640 a day.

After the treatment, patients must come to terms with an uncomfortable truth: Their addiction will always be there.

Bakker calls it the terrorist inside.

"It can't blow me up, but it tells me one drink, one game of Warcraft is OK . . . But you need to fight it every day." *Reuters*

CAN'T STOP GAMING? Gamers in this file photos taken in Utrecht, the Netherlands, may now avail of the first detox clinic for hand-held or computer video game addicts in Amsterdam. In-house treatment is also available to bring them back from the virtual world to reality. REUTERS

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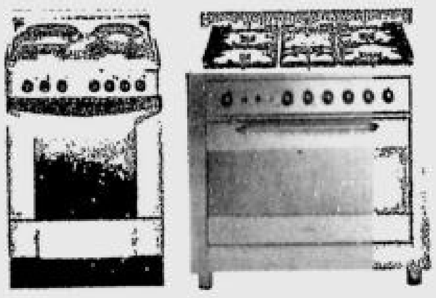

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Death stalks Maguindanao evacuees

SHARIFF AGUAK, MAGUINDANAO—THREE persons, including two children, died of various illnesses in evacuation centers here, health officials said yesterday.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, said the two children, Marissa Monalasag, 5, and Badrudin Kamsa, a 10-month-old boy, both died of diarrhea while 70-year-old Muhani Datukali died of severe anemia.

Sulaik did not say when the deaths occurred but added that eight other evacuees were being treated at the Maguindanao Integrated Provincial Health office here due to respiratory tract infections and diarrhea.

He said that health workers were also providing medical services to other evacuees and that water sources had been chlorinated to make them safe.

At least 30,000 individuals were displaced when fighting between militiamen controlled by Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels broke out on June 28.

The hostilities that have affected this town and four other towns were prompted by the June 23 bomb attack that killed seven people and injured at least 10 others.

Authorities have claimed that the bomb was intended for Ampatuan, whose convoy was passing by at the time of the explosion.

Ampatuan was unscathed but four people in a car trailing his vehicle were among those killed.

Ampatuan's camp had blamed MILF commanders Jamil Ombra and Sajid Pakiladato, also main suspects in the 2003 explosion that killed his son, Datu Piang Mayor Saudi Ampatuan.

Five days after the June 23 blast, Ampatuan-controlled militiamen stormed an MILF camp here, triggering clashes.

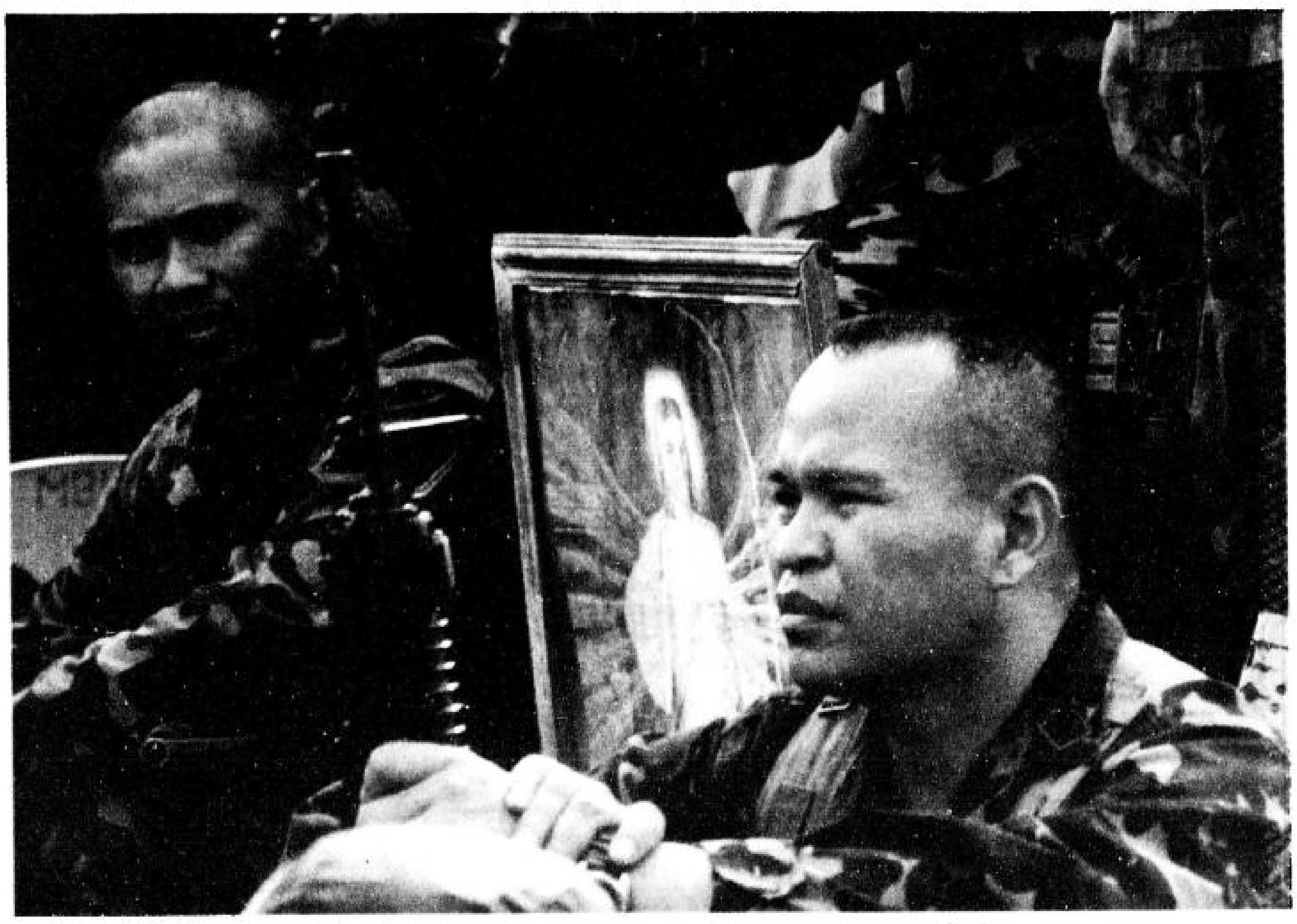
The number of those killed in the skirmishes was not clear as both sides have reported conflicting figures.

But non-government aid workers said that as in any other war, the civilians were the ones to suffer most.

Sulaik said health workers were now able to work double-time following the establishment of a "de-militarized zone" and the signing of an agreement between Ampatuan and the MILF to end the hostilities.

Sulaik also reported 3,029 evacuees that underwent medical consultations, many of them provided medicines and vitamins and other food supplements.

Over 400 children were also immunized with anti-measles vaccines. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI M. Bureau*



THE WAR won't stop for these Marines who are unloaded from a Navy ship at the port of Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. ROY MALCOLM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

GMA opens new school for pilots in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated here on Thursday the Clark Institute of Aviation (CIA), said to be the first of its kind in Asia and seen as an answer to the acute shortage of pilots in the region's airline industry.

Ms Arroyo unveiled the company's marker, toured the training academy at the Clark Polytechnic here and conferred with CIA officials, led by its chair and chief executive officer Mark Pearson.

Pearson said his company, a member of the Alpha Aviation Group from the United Kingdom, has invested $15.6 million this year. Another $12 million will be invested in 2007. The AAG is a global group of companies providing specialist and training solutions, operational support as well as recruitment and consultancy services to the international aviation community.

It is establishing a network of similar academies in Europe, Middle East and other parts of Southeast Asia, Pearson said.

The institute will train pilots for Airbus 320 aircraft starting September this year. A 12-month extensive course costs $65,000 or roughly P3 million.

Pearson said the school would have two fixed-based simulators for the basic and intermediate phases of the flight instruction and an A320 Level D full flight simulator. The course will have 18 pilot-students per month.

Citing market forecasts, Pearson said the Asian region needs 6,000 new pilots each year in the next 20 years.

The CIA, he added, is one of the pioneers of the new International Civil Aviation Organization Multi-Crew Pilot License.

Successful cadets will graduate with a commercial pilot license that allows them to initially fly as co-pilots. The institute will be training them on either the Boeing 737 or the Airbus A320.

Pearson said the CIA chose Clark because of its strategic location, incentives, and abundance of skilled and English-speaking personnel. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

'Jueteng' returns unopposed in Batangas, Cavite

LIPA CITY—THE ORGANIZED operations of the illegal numbers game have been resurrected in the provinces of Batangas and Cavite, Church and police officials told the INQUIRER.

Lipa City Archbishop Ramon Arguelles said he had received confirmation that rampant jueteng operations in Batangas had been going on for three months now.

But unlike before, the underground lottery game is now being run by non-Batangas residents, he said.

Gov. Armando Sanchez has been named repeatedly in Senate hearings last year as the supposed financier of jueteng in the province.

He denied the allegations linking him to jueteng.

"I used to think that the governor runs the jueteng operations in Batangas. But now it's different. Apparently, a new group has taken over (Sanchez's turf)," Arguelles told the INQUIRER on Wednesday.

He, however, declined to identify the supposed handlers of jueteng in Batangas.

But INQUIRER sources from the police named a certain Mike Biscocho, Pres Salud and Lito "Bumbay" Guerra as among the operators of the numbers game racket in Batangas.

The source, who asked not to be identified for fear of being reprimanded by his superiors, said Guerra was close to a ranking senior official of the Calabarzon police command assigned in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City.

The source said jueteng draws are being held thrice daily in Batangas City, Tanauan City and the towns of Laurel, Sto. Tomas, San Juan, Lemery, Bauan, Calaca, Balayan and Nasugbu.

Meanwhile, a certain Ebeng and Gani Cupcupin were the alleged "national coordinators" of the illegal gambling in Cavite.

"Ebeng and Cupcupin are not from Cavite. But they have the support of the elder brother of a provincial official," the source said.

The source said the group rakes in millions of pesos of jueteng collection every month.

He said draws are also held thrice a day in the towns of Dasmariñas, Silang, Imus, Gen. Trias, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon and Carmona.

Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla had also identified Cupcupin as the operator of jueteng in his province.

In an earlier interview, Supt. Rodel Sermonia, the intelligence chief of the Cavite police, denied that jueteng had made a comeback in the province.

Sanchez refused to say, however, what he was doing to stop jueteng in Batangas. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Aeta teacher blazes trail for day care education

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—"*MULA TAAS, pababa* (From the top, write a line downward)."

Demonstrating that on the board and giving that instruction later at least 10 times, Annabelle Baclay—hailed as this city's first Aeta day care educator—teaches the young members of her tribe to write numbers.

Aside from the 20 Aetas aged three to six, Baclay also tutors 26 children of *unat* (lowlanders) who have settled in this village just outside the 10-foot high concrete fence of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

Baclay's school is a former chapel, a 6 meter by 5 meter structure donated by the Korean Presbyterian Church in Sitio Bliss.

Heide Patio, the city's social welfare chief, said Baclay, 30, is "truly the first Aeta day care worker we have."

"She chose to be a day care worker even when she finished a two-year course," Patio said.

Interviewed on Tuesday after her three-hour morning session, Baclay said she finished a computer secretarial course at the Asian College of Science and Technology in Cabanatuan City.

The tribe evacuated to Palayan City in Nueva Ecija during Mt. Pinatubo's June 1991 eruptions. They returned to Sapang Bato in 1998 when the land proved to be good again for tilling.

"I remained in the village. I wanted to help my fellow Aeta get an education. That's my dream," Baclay said.

That dream, she said, was inspired by what she went through and the Benedictine nuns' advocacy for education.

In her time, Aeta who went to the elementary school right in the village were "laughed at, taunted for our color, for our race, for our being *taong-bundok* (mountain dwellers)."

"'Baluga' was the derogatory term they called us. But I did not allow that to discourage me. I wouldn't have a future if I stopped studying," she said.

SHAPES N COLOURS

BACLAY in her classroom. EDER PASAMONTE/CONTRIBUTOR

Even when the Aetas were displaced, the Benedictine sisters continued the literacy program in Barangay Doña Josefa, their temporary refuge in Palayan City.

On her return to Sapang Bato in 1998, she began her work although she had still to be accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development as a day care teacher.

"I gathered the children when they were free, read to them stories from old books, taught them to read, write and count on whatever paper and objects I could gather. An old, small blackboard came handy," she said.

Kwoen Yang Ae, a Korean pastor, decided to give the chapel for the use of her first 15 wards.

Learning of her community work, Councilor Vicky Vega supported her with a P1,000 monthly allowance, some of which she spent on school supplies.

During "graduation," she invited Patio and day care leader Mandy Lacsamana to prove that young Aeta were determined to learn early.

She was eventually accredited and the Bliss day care center was officially acknowledged as one of 76 early learning facilities in the city's 33 villages.

Mayor Carmelo Lazatin said the city spends P3.8 million yearly to pay for the honorarium of 76 day care teachers, and a minimum of P1 million annually on books or air-conditioning units.

Baclay gets P3,300 monthly from the city and another P500 from the barangay.

Her being an Aeta cultivates trust and confidence among her wards, she said.

"Because I'm one of them, they're not afraid to go to school, to make mistakes, to ask questions," she said.

A parent, Lily de la Cruz, said she is confident entrusting her son, Renren, to Baclay.

"*Eku tatakut uling Aeta yang kalupa mi ing maestra na* (I'm not afraid because his teacher is an Aeta like us)," said De la Cruz.

Zeny Sibal, another parent, said Baclay works "dobol-dobol," referring to Baclay's adult literacy classes among mothers.

Baclay said she also goes out of her way to help poorer kids get food before they come to class.

"I have to do that, else they drop out of class because of poverty," she said.

More than 200 students have gone through her class in the last six years and many of them are now in grades five or six.

She and a select batch of Aeta children won the nutrition jingle-writing contest in the city last month.

She played the guitar while her wards sang and danced the winning piece she composed.

"Aeta are fast learners. You just have to be patient," she said.

She uses three languages to bring the lessons across: Aeta *mag-antsi* (an Aeta language used in northern Pampanga and Tarlac), Kapampangan and Filipino.

To make them grounded in the indigenous culture, she has put up an exhibit at a corner of the room. On display are a miniature Aeta hut, necklaces, *pana* (bow and arrow), *bulungudyon* (bamboo flute) and *kulibaw* (bamboo mouth harp).

Baclay wanted a set of educational videos, a CD player and TV monitor for her students to "make learning as visually as possible."

"I want to show them plants, animals, places," she said.

The chapel is still far from being an ideal learning place, and she wants a bigger room with a toilet, a washroom and bigger windows.

Parents have contributed P50 each to repair the windows.

"We're trying to improve the school little by little," Baclay said. *(Baclay can be reached through 0920-3689406)*

GENTLE CREATURE RAY ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A fisherman from Barangay Puaro, Dagupan City holds a hawksbill turtle to turn it over to authorities after it was caught in his fishing net. The turtle will be released to the sea after it was inspected by environment authorities.

Fears raised over mining dam in danger of collapse

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—A NON-GOVERNMENT organization here raised concerns over the possible collapse of a mining dam that had been abandoned following massive spills in 1996.

Concerns over the dam came as the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources identified 35 barangays in this province where landslides can possibly occur.

The MGB, in an earlier report, identified Marinduque as the seventh most landslide-prone province in the country.

The MGB identified the landslide-prone areas in a study and ocular inspection report.

Of the villages tagged as landslide-prone, eight are in the town of Boac, six in Gasan, three in Buenavista, seven in Sta. Cruz and 11 in Torrijos.

Aside from landslides, provincial board member Allan Nepomuceno, committee on public order and safety chair, and the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns, raised concerns on the possible collapse of a Marcopper dam.

According to them, engineers from the Marcopper Mining Corp. (MMC) have admitted that they had monitored leaks at the structures of the Makulapnit Dam, which is in imminent danger of collapse because of its rapid deterioration.

Should it burst, 34 million cubic meters of water and silt will cascade down the Boac River.

"With the continuous heavy rains that we are experiencing now, the aging dam may not be able to hold additional volume of water and burst. This is the same scenario in 1995 before the tragic mine tailings spillage occurred a year after in 1996," Nepomuceno said.

In March 1996, the whole town of Boac was submerged in flood waters and tailings brought about by a collapsed tunnel of MMC's Tapian Pit.

The MGB said people living in the villages that were tagged landslide-prone must be forewarned.

The bureau said an information campaign was urgent to prompt people in the villages to prepare for disasters and prevent a tragedy similar to that which struck Guinsaugon town in Southern Leyte.

At least 1,000 people, mostly children, were buried alive in Guinsaugon.

In December 2005, two persons died when their hut was hit and covered by mud and rocks in Duyay, Boac.

In a study made by engineer Cirilo Monilla, a professor of the Marinduque State College, only four of the six municipalities of Marinduque have the capacity to respond immediately to disasters, such as landslides and flash floods.

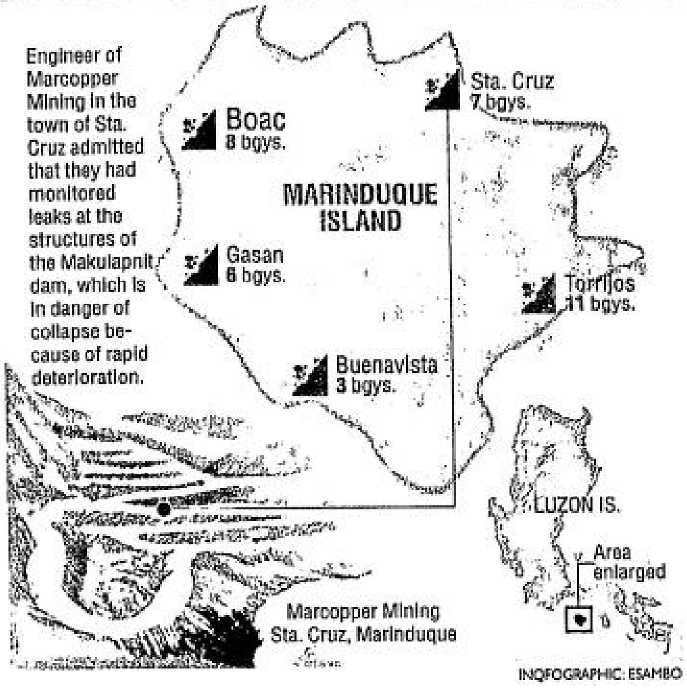
The municipalities of Boac, Gasan, Sta. Cruz and Torrijos passed the criteria of preparedness.

The towns of Mogpog and Buenavista must improve their respective disaster preparedness programs, the study said.

Makulapnit Dam is among the dams of MMC which has been identified as an "imminent danger of collapsing" by the United States Geological Services, which made a two-year survey and assessment of the March 1996 Marcopper tailings spill.

Makulapnit Dam was built to supply water for MMC's operations and for household use of residences near it. *Gerald Gene Querubin, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MARINDUQUE LANDSLIDE-PRONE AREAS


Engineer of Marcopper Mining in the town of Sta. Cruz admitted that they had monitored leaks at the structures of the Makulapnit dam, which is in danger of collapse because of rapid deterioration.
Boac 8 bgys.
Sta. Cruz 7 bgys.
MARINDUQUE ISLAND
Gasan 6 bgys.
Torrijos 11 bgys.
Buenavista 3 bgys.
LUZON IS.
Area enlarged
Marcopper Mining Sta. Cruz, Marinduque

INQFOGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

ROUNDUP

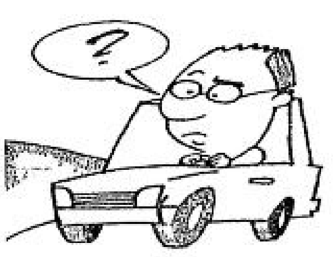
2 die in grenade attack

COTABATO CITY—Two people were killed while several others were wounded when a grenade exploded inside a public utility jeep plying the Libungan-Banisilan route in North Cotabato on Sunday, the military reported Wednesday. Capt. Magid Buisan, of the Army's 38th Infantry Battalion, identified the casualties as PUJ driver Antonio Ferolino, 18, and Eva Bañas, 54, a resident of Alamada town, also in North Cotabato. Buisan said the PUJ was traversing the highway in Alamada when it was flagged down by six armed men. The driver, he said, refused to pull over. Buisan said one of the gunmen, apparently irked by the driver's refusal to stop, hurled the grenade at the speeding PUJ. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

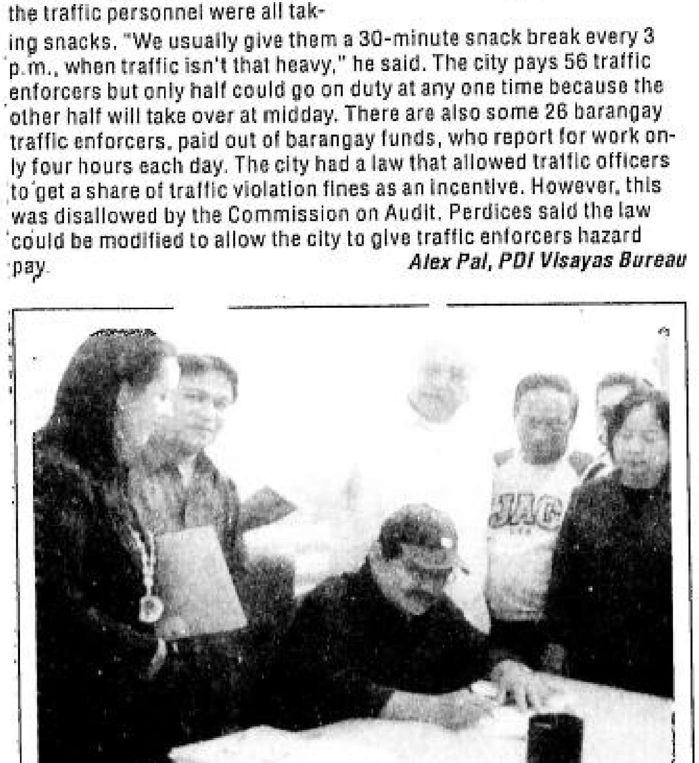
Fire destroys cable wires

TAGBILARAN CITY—Fire destroyed cable wires inside the Globe cell site in Barangay Poblacion, San Isidro town. Insp. Samuel Gabuya, San Isidro police chief, said there had been no intelligence reports of a possible rebel attack in San Isidro, 25 km north of Tagbilaran, prior to the burning. He also said rebels usually bomb cell sites, not set them afire. The arson was discovered about 4 a.m. by the caretaker identified as Bartolome Alidon, 44. Gabuya said a team sent by the Globe management which visited the site on Tuesday noon estimated the burned cable wires to be worth P100,000. Recovered at the fire scene were bamboo splits and a piece of rag which prompted policemen to theorize that the suspect dipped part of it with kerosene before setting the wires on fire. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Looking for traffic aides



DUMAGUETE CITY—Where are the traffic enforcers? That's a question that bugged Mayor Agustin Perdices as he drove along the city streets one day last week at 3 p.m. "I couldn't find a single traffic enforcer," he told the traffic advisory committee in a meeting last week. Traffic operations officer Danny Atillo said the traffic personnel were all taking snacks. "We usually give them a 30-minute snack break every 3 p.m., when traffic isn't that heavy," he said. The city pays 56 traffic enforcers but only half could go on duty at any one time because the other half will take over at midday. There are also some 26 barangay traffic enforcers, paid out of barangay funds, who report for work only four hours each day. The city had a law that allowed traffic officers to get a share of traffic violation fines as an incentive. However, this was disallowed by the Commission on Audit. Perdices said the law could be modified to allow the city to give traffic enforcers hazard pay. *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*



LIBEL CASE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, surrounded by his lawyers and supporters, signs documents needed for the libel case he filed against two Puerto Princesa tabloids that published stories linking him to almost every major crime in the city.

Mountain crack triggers town evacuation

PANGIL, LAGUNA—CONTINUOUS RAINS ARE further increasing the chances of a mountain here collapsing following the discovery of a crack there.

Villagers expressed fears of a possible landslide that could bury entire communities.

Maria Paz Santos, speaking on behalf of Mayor Ninay Manzana, said that because of this danger, the municipal government was facilitating the evacuation of residents, about 64 families, who live in areas directly in the path of a landslide should the mountain collapse.

Santos said the crack, which occurred on top of the mountain in Barangay Dambo, was discovered last March and was identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a former quarrying area.

Because of the danger, the municipal government immediately ordered a total stop to quarrying activities in the area.

Romeo Panisales Jr., of the Laguna Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), said at least 64 families are to be evacuated anytime today or tomorrow.

He said PDCC personnel and Pangil MDCC operatives were now monitoring the danger areas—including towns like Mabitac, Sta. Maria and Famy—which are prone to deep flooding during typhoons.

Santos said Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro had promised to immediately release funds for the evacuees for their initial needs.

Each family would be given P2,500 worth of materials for each new shelter at the relocation area in Barangay Matalatala, Mabitac town.

Santos said the Pangil MDCC personnel were now in the thick of preparations for the transfer of the evacuees. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Imported LPG tanks face ban in Davao

DAVAO CITY—A CITY COUNCILOR IS SEEKING a ban on the importation of second-hand liquefied petroleum gas (LGP) cylinders, citing consumer welfare and safety issues.

"There is a need to establish stricter guidelines in the sale, requalification, distribution and repair of second-hand LPG cylinders. The alteration of the same may result in substandard, leaking marketed LPG units that may cause fire incidents," Councilor Pilar Braga said.

Braga has urged the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Energy (DOE) "to flex their muscles some more."

She said that studies showed that next to faulty electrical wiring, leaking LPG tanks have become a major cause of more than 3,000 fires last year.

Braga said the studies also showed that the fires killed more than 500 people.

Braga said aside from banning the importation and sale of second-hand LPG cylinders, the DTI and the DOE should also exert more effort in putting a stop to the sale of LPG cylinders with tampered seals or with no seals at all.

She said that LPG cylinders without the product standard certificate (PSC) marking are rampantly sold in the market, enticing consumers because of the cheap price.

"Aside from the dangers of substandard and leaking LPG tanks, there is also a pressing reason to protect the constituents and continue to inform them of the dangers of buying substandard LPG tanks, especially those with broken or tampered seals or those that do not have the appropriate government standard seal," she said.

Braga also appealed to businessmen here not to sell substandard LPG tanks or unfairly overprice the LPG tanks they sell.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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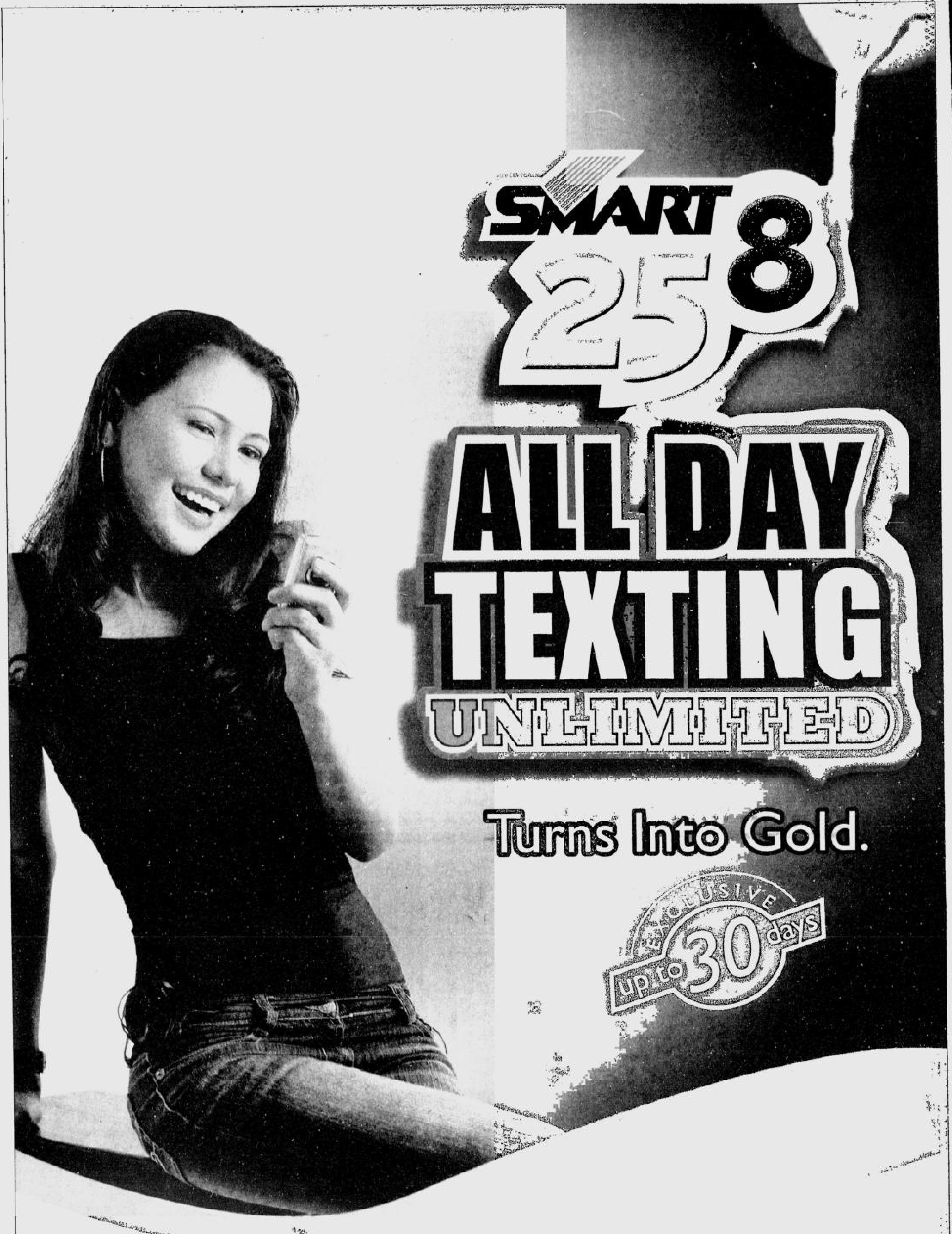

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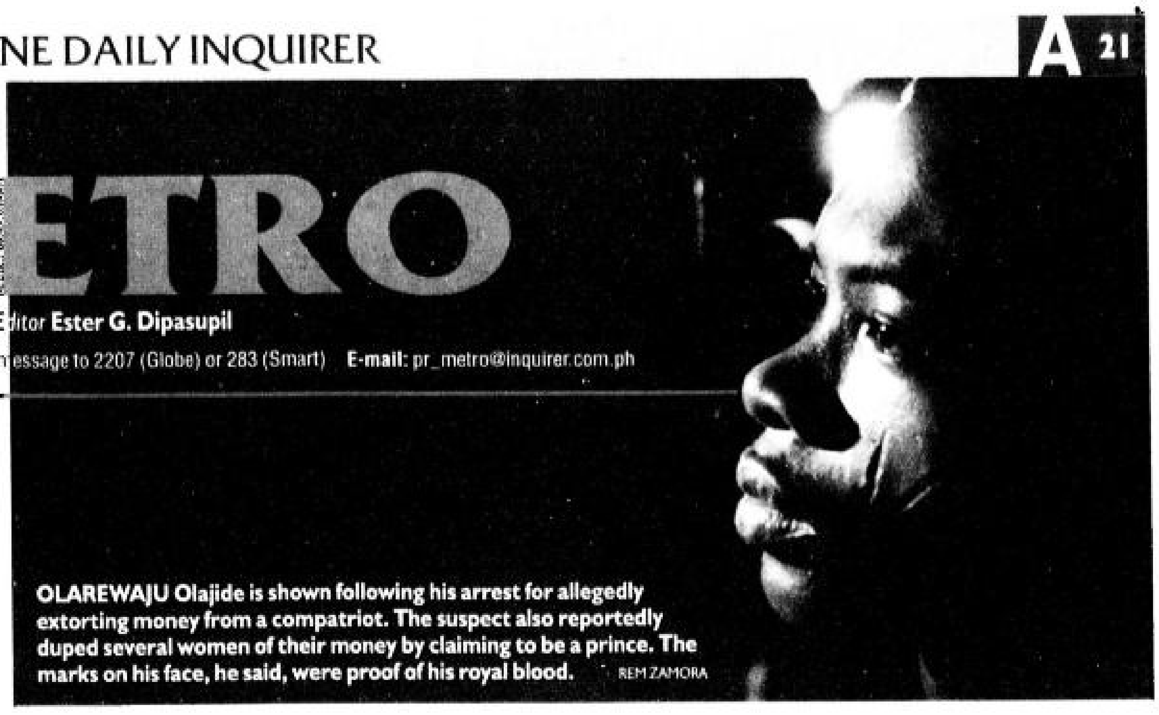
Nigerian posing as prince faces estafa charges

Suspect also offered marriage, luxurious lifestyle to victims

By Margaux C. Ortiz



OLAREWAJU Olajide is shown following his arrest for allegedly extorting money from a compatriot. The suspect also reportedly duped several women of their money by claiming to be a prince. The marks on his face, he said, were proof of his royal blood. REM ZAMORA

A SWEET-TALKING NIGERIAN, WHO HAD introduced himself as a prince and promised marriage to several Filipino women, fell in the hands of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) when he allegedly duped a fellow Nigerian of $4,500.

Suspect Olarewaju Olajide was arrested in an entrapment operation after he demanded money from Julius Onyeugo, a naturalized American citizen born in Nigeria.

Olajide, 31, of Lot 1, Blk 22, Dolmar Subdivision, Novaliches, Caloocan City, is now facing estafa charges in the Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila, according to NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring.

Shortly after Olajide's arrest, three middle-aged women went to the NBI and accused the suspect of having defrauded them of their hard-earned money.

"Olajide, who had introduced himself as a doctor and a prince through the Internet, had promised marriage and a luxurious lifestyle to his victims," said Ruel Lasala, NBI National Capital Region Office regional director. Olajide denied all the charges.

"The suspect will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration because his name was not in its list of registered aliens based on fingerprint database and index names on file," Mantaring said in a news conference yesterday where the suspect was presented to reporters.

An investigation conducted by Lasala showed that on June 16, Olajide called up Onyeugo in the United States and told him that the latter's nephew, Vincent Konjore, had been arrested by immigration agents in Manila for allegedly violating passport laws.

Onyeugo then wired $4,500 to the suspect, who promised to facilitate his nephew's release. When Olajide demanded an additional $4,200 the next day, the complainant refused to send the money and flew to the Philippines on June 26 to talk to Konjore.

After his nephew told him that the suspect did not work for his release, Onyeugo decided to seek the NBI's assistance.

"The suspect was arrested while accepting marked money from the victim at the Bayview Hotel in Pasay City last July 3," Lasala said.

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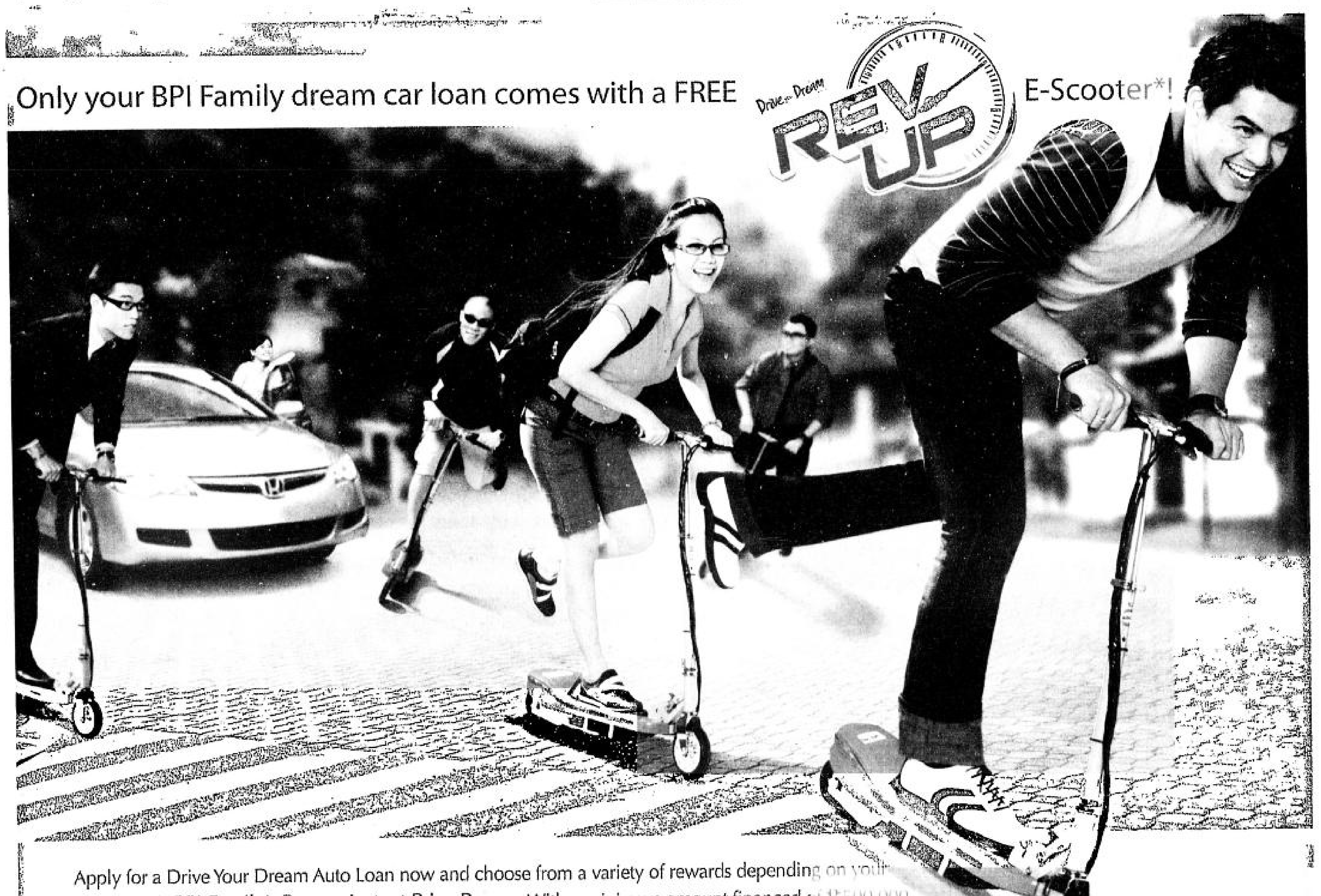

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Landslide kills farmer in Rizal; woman hurt

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

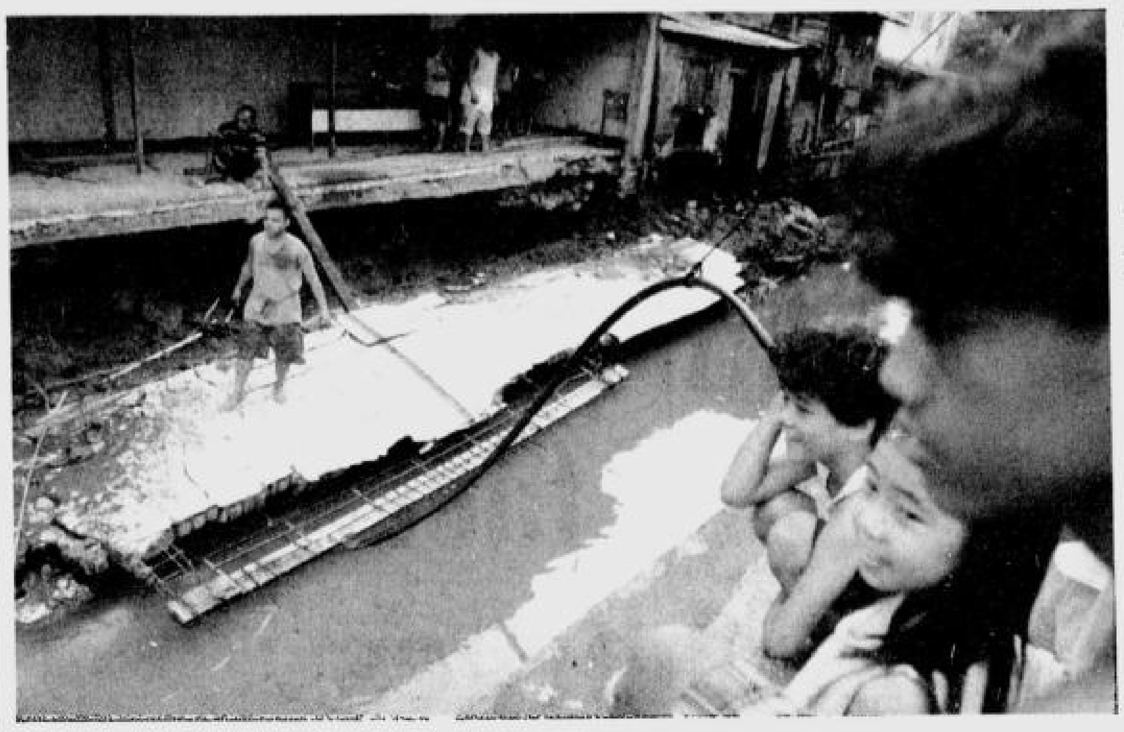
HEAVY RAINS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERnoon triggered at least three landslides in Rizal, killing a 53-year-old farmer and injuring a woman who was cooking food for her family.

"We have advised residents to be careful," Rizal police chief, Senior Supt. Freddie Panen, told the INQUIRER as rains continued to pour yesterday.

Panen identified the fatality as Eduardo Tendero, a farmer whose house was located at the foot of a dump in Barangay Tandang Kutyo in Tanay. Tendero was with his grandchildren in their backyard when a portion of the dump, apparently weakened by the nonstop downpour, collapsed.

His grandchildren managed to run away but Tendero was buried under piles of garbage and mud, his wife Emerita told the police. Policemen and the Tanay Disaster Team managed to recover his body after three hours. Panen said he had already asked town officials to close the dump on Sitio Dalawang Kawayan.

In Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City, Josephine Agam was injured when a house collapsed, sending debris and mud rushing into the kitchen where she was cooking. Floods also triggered a landslide in Barangay Dolores in Taytay, Panen added.



AND THE WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN
Residents of Perfecto Street in Tayuman, Manila view the wall of a garments factory which collapsed due to strong rains which loosened the soil around the building. Luckily, no one was injured when the wall came down. REM ZAMORA

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Mother files abuse raps vs daughter's dentist

By DJ Yap

A DENTIST IN QUEZON CITY HAS been accused of hurting a 16-year-old girl by forcibly removing her braces out of anger at the victim's mother.

Charged with inflicting physical injuries in relation to child abuse was Dr. Antonio Salazar, who holds a clinic at the Robinsons Galleria mall in Quezon City.

In a complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office, Arlene Tecson-Pereira accused Salazar of hurting her daughter Ma. Trixia Darlene on July 10, following an argument about her bill.

Based on Pereira's account, Trixia was scheduled to have her dental braces removed at 5:30 p.m. that day. When they went to the clinic, Salazar allegedly asked her to pay her balance of P1,800 before performing the procedure.

But Pereira said she told the dentist that she had no money with her since he had said during a previous session that she no longer needed to pay anything.

Pereira added that she offered to pay the balance on July 13 but Salazar refused, leading to an argument between the two.

Salazar allegedly pushed Trixia to the dentist's chair and, "with his hands shaking," began taking out the braces using dental pliers, Pereira said.

In her own sworn affidavit, Trixia said she felt a pain in her mouth, adding that her gums bled because of the forceful removal of the braces.

The INQUIRER tried to get Salazar's side but was told by his sister-in-law, Daisy Salazar, that he had been advised by his lawyer not to talk about the case.

She added that her brother-in-law had also filed charges against Pereira.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that Caloocan City is split geographically into northern and southern Caloocan?

THE CITY was split into two areas—first, when Quezon City was established in 1939, and again, a decade later when Quezon City took over certain parts of Caloocan.

Northern Caloocan is a hilly area sandwiched between Bulacan and Quezon City. Southern Caloocan is an urban area that includes the Monumento area. It is bounded on the south by Manila, on the north by Valenzuela and Malabon, on the east by Quezon City, and on the west by Navotas.

PDI Research

METROBRIEFS

No water in Manila

SOME areas in Manila will have no water for 20 hours starting at 11:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, until 7:30 p.m. the following day. The water service interruption is due to the replacement of the existing 500 mm-diameter gate valve on United Nations Avenue corner A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. Areas that will be affected are those bounded by Luneta, UN Avenue, M.H. del Pilar, A. Mabini St., Padre Faura St., M. Adriatico St., Pedro Gil St. (West), President Quirino Avenue (West) and San Andres (West); the area bounded by UN Avenue, Taft Avenue, President Quirino Avenue and Roxas Boulevard; and the area bounded by UN Avenue, Tripa De Galina, Pedro Gil St. and Taft Avenue. The repair and maintenance work is part of Maynilad's continuing program to upgrade and improve its service. Affected customers may call the Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water rationing schedule.

Seminar on UK

THE BRITISH Council will hold its annual "Welcome to the UK" seminar on July 29 at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. The seminar provides practical tips on living and studying in the United Kingdom. Information ranging from pre-departure preparations, arrival, accommodations, transportation and money matters will be discussed. The seminar registration fee is P300. For reservations, please visit the British Council website at www.britishcouncil.org.ph or call 9141011 to 14.

Philippine Idol
Saksihan: Judges, kikilatis sa magiging Idol ng Bayan.
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INQUIRER TV GUIDE
Friday, July 14, 2006

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Real Stories			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Calla Lily	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Maalaala Mo Kaya		Bandila	Gudtym		
AXN		A Knight's Tale					30 Seconds To Fame	Amazon		Andromeda (Season V)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	Hollywood Homicide					The Net
Cartoon Network	Pixie And Dixie	All New Popeye Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Codename: Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Simpsons	Samurai Jack	PokeMon	[illegible]	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Teen Titans	Justice League	The Batman	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock
Cinema One		Aguila				[illegible]				Ang Erpat Kong Astig				Cara Y Cruz				Singles	
Cinemax				The Blues Brothers				Once Upon A Time In Mexico				Fast Getaway			The Kiss (9:25 PM)			The Last Samurai	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Crime Scene Academy	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel		We Built This City		More Than Human		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides 2		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	The Xtractors		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN						Pro Billiards '06 [illegible]		LPGA Golf [illegible] C'ship	Motorsport Asia			Germany Tonight		Sportscenter Asia	[illegible]				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia 2		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man [illegible] (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1 [illegible] By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Captain Barbell	Majika	I Luv NY		Love Of The Condor Heroes		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15 PM)		They Call Me Sir (4:05 PM)				[illegible]		Strong Medicine		Dinotopia		Wire In The Blood		Midsomer Murders: Death Of A Stranger			Wire In The Blood (11:45PM)
HBO			Home Fries (3:45 PM)			[illegible] (5:15 PM)			[illegible] (6:45 PM)				The Big Preview/ Pirates Of The Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest	The Cable Guy			Cellular (10:35PM)		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E	Super Gals	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Bakuten [illegible]	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mama de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Super Gals	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics: Arms		Global Family Series		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics: Arms	Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Bust The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	American Dad	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines MYX		Boiling Points Rock MYX	My Own My MYX	Mellow MYX	MTV Hits Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG	MYX Fiesta	Star MYX	Get Spoiled OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MTV Days MYX Daily Top Ten		Boiling Points Club MYX	My Own MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX		
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth [illegible]		Amazing Moments	Amazing Moments	Top 5 - Is It Real?		WOW Dragons of the Komodo		About Asia		National Geographic Specials					
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Asia			Dong Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ [illegible] Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Convergence	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Pagbubunyag		News Bust (Live)		Openline (Live)	Kasalo Sa Hapunan	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	DWTV Journal News	Convergence
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	SpongeBob [illegible]	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron [illegible]	Nick Kicks! All Grown Up		Danny Phantom	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous/ Kid's Choice Awards	Romeo	Naturally Sadie	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			The Ultimate [illegible]				Dekada 60 [illegible] Mumo				Pagdating Ng Panahon				Confessions [illegible]				Lupe
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Rachel Ann Go Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)				Phoenix	Irene	Fireworks	Dano	Project 11	Granda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Arangkada News		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports				GWS 27-2006	Boxing Greatest Classics			G.F.B. [illegible]			Sagupaan	2006 JONES CUP				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	2006 Thomas Cup [illegible]	
Sports Plus		Rack Champ Highlights		World's Greatest Auto Shows		USGA [illegible]		World Game		Raceworld		Kopi Tunnel Vision	Rookie Manual	BD Mail	Wild Side Las Vegas	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	John Deere Classic: Day 1	
Star Movies			Shoot To Kill (3:25 PM)			[illegible] (5:15 PM)					Safe Men			AVP: Alien Vs. Predator			[illegible] (10:10PM)		
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Rockstar		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Teen Titans		The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			[illegible] (9:10 PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah		[illegible] World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

350 detained over Bombay blasts

BOMBAY'S commuters are back on the railways but with a sense of unease. REUTERS

BOMBAY, INDIA—INDIAN POLICE have detained about 350 people for questioning in connection with the Bombay train bombings, officials said Thursday amid suspicion that Kashmiri militants could be linked to the attacks that killed at least 200 people.

Most of the detentions were made overnight in Malwani, a northeastern suburb of Bombay, said police Inspector S. Goshal. He said none of them has been formally arrested or charged, and they were rounded up only for questioning to help with the investigations into Tuesday's serial bombings.

Bombay police Commissioner A.N. Roy confirmed a large number of arrests have been made but refused to give an exact figure.

"There have been widespread search operations. A lot of people have been detained for questioning," he said. "This is all part of a large-scale investigation, the search operation and combing operation," he told The Associated Press.

He said those arrested include known thugs, gangsters and trouble makers, who might have information about the culprits.

The arrests came a day after the police chief of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, said investigators were looking into a possible link with Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, one of the several Kashmiri militant groups fighting for independence from India for the Himalayan region.

"It is difficult to say definitely at this stage, but Lashkar-e-Tayyaba can be involved going by the style of attack," said P.S. Pasricha, the director general of police for Maharashtra state.

Lashkar has in the past employed near-simultaneous explosions to attack Indian cities. A spokesperson for Lashkar, Abdullah Ghaznavi, denied the group was involved, saying in a statement that "Indian security forces blame Lashkar in an attempt to defame Kashmir freedom struggle."

On Thursday, the city was back on track with tens of thousands of people jamming the commuter train service that had been hit by eight bombs, which killed at least 200 people and wounding more than 700.

"The city has faced attacks in the past. It is always bounced back quickly ... people have to go to work. What else are we going to do," said Ashwini Lolo, an office worker in his 20s, at the Bandra station waiting to board a train.

His voice was drowned by the loud announcements on the station's public address system as the brown-and-yellow trains whizzed by with people hanging out the doors like every day.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh praised the wounded city of 16 million for its strength and resilience.

"No one can make India kneel. No one can come in the path of our progress," Singh said in a nationally televised speech.

Earlier Wednesday, the Indian foreign ministry demanded that neighboring rival Pakistan dismantle all terrorist networks on land it controls—but fell short of directly accusing it for the attacks.

"We would urge Pakistan to take urgent steps to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism on the territory under its control and act resolutely against individuals and groups who are responsible for terrorists' violence," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna said.

Many here suspect the attacks were the work of Kashmiri militants who New Delhi charges are trained, armed and funded by Islamabad. Pakistan, which harshly condemned the bombings, insists it only offers the rebels diplomatic and moral support.

Kashmir—a beautiful Himalayan region divided between the two neighbors but claimed by both—lies at the heart of their decades-long dispute. The region is largely Muslim, and the militants want a Kashmir independent of India, which is mostly Hindu, or joined to overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

World powers to send Iran issue to UN Council

PARIS—World powers meeting in Paris upped the stakes over Iran's nuclear program Wednesday, agreeing to send Tehran back to the UN Security Council and raising the threat of sanctions over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment. "The Iranians have given no indication at all that they are ready to engage seriously on the substance of our proposals," French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy said in a statement agreed with his colleagues from the United States, Britain, Germany, Russia and China. "Iran has failed to take the steps needed to allow negotiations to begin. ... We express profound disappointment over this situation," he said, according to an official English translation of his remarks. "We have no choice but to return to the United Nations Security Council and take forward the process that was suspended two months ago," he said. "We have agreed to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution, which would make the IAEA-required suspension mandatory. Should Iran refuse to comply then we will work for the adoption of measures under Article 41 of Chapter Seven of the United Nations charter," the statement said. *AFP*

No breakthrough in China diplomacy on N. Korea

BEIJING—A "baffled" China has made no breakthrough in urging North Korea to disarmament talks, a senior US diplomat said on Thursday as regional fissures over how to deal with Pyongyang's missile tests widened. US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill told reporters in Beijing he was confident that the United Nations, now divided over how to respond to last week's missile launches, would send a "very strong, very clear message" to Pyongyang. But he said there had been no breakthroughs in Pyongyang, where Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu and Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei are visiting for meetings that cover the missile crisis. "So far they don't seem to be interested in listening, much less doing anything," Hill said of North Korea's response. "I think the Chinese are as baffled as we are." Hill said he sensed China was frustrated that its extensive assistance to Pyongyang had not brought it more leverage. "The North Koreans ... take Chinese assistance much more readily than they take Chinese advice," he said. *Reuters*

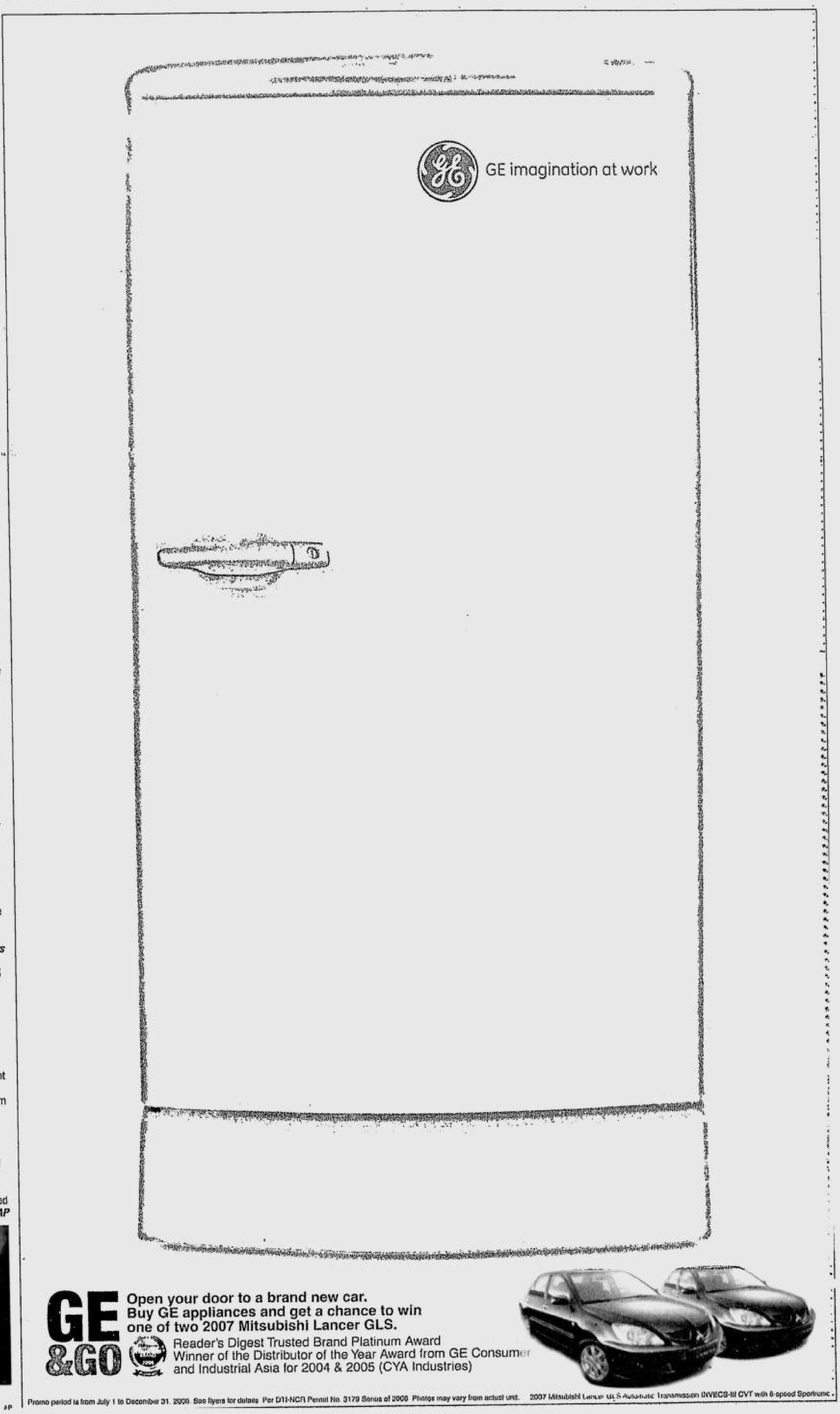
Boston 'Big Dig' collapse

BOSTON—Boston's entire highway system will be inspected after 60 potentially dangerous areas were found in a tunnel where a ceiling collapsed and killed a woman, authorities said on Wednesday, deepening concerns of wider defects in the city's $14.6-billion "Big Dig" project. Fasteners supporting three-ton cement ceiling panels in at least 60 areas of the eastbound Interstate-90 connector tunnel have been compromised, said Matthew Amorello, chair of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. Problems may also exist in the westbound and express commuter lanes, said Amorello, whose quasi-public agency oversees the Big Dig, America's costliest public works project which has been dogged by controversy and cost overruns. The connector, which leads to Boston's Logan International Airport, has been shut indefinitely since a 38-year-old woman was killed late on Monday when four panels weighing about three tons each cascaded from the ceiling, crushing her car. Her husband crawled out a window. *Reuters*

After triplets, quadruplets

LOS ANGELES—With fertility drugs, Angela Magdaleno had triplets three years ago. Last week, she had quadruplets—without fertility drugs. Her two boys and two girls were healthy and doing well Wednesday after being born July 6 by Caesarean section in what doctors said was a rare occurrence of multiple births. Magdaleno, 40, said she was shocked when her doctor told her she was pregnant with four babies. "I didn't know what to do," she said in Spanish as she rested at home. "But now I'm happy because they're healthy and so am I." Still, she worries that she might be overwhelmed with the work and sometimes struggles with mixed emotions about the future. "I don't know if I'm sad or happy," she said. "I'm happy but, I don't know. I don't know how to explain it." Her doctor, Kathryn Shaw, a high-risk pregnancy specialist, said Magdaleno did well during the pregnancy and developed no complications. *AP*

DOCTOR Kathryn Shaw holding the quadruplets born to Angela Magdalena. AP



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Promo period is from July 1 to December 31, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3179 Series of 2006. Photos may vary from actual unit. 2007 Mitsubishi Lancer GLS Automatic Transmission INVECS-III CVT with 6-speed Sportronic.

Israel bombs Beirut int'l airport

SMOKE billows from the Rafiq Hariri International Airport in Beirut following Israeli air strikes July 13. AFP

BEIRUT—ISRAELI WARPLANES BOMBED BEIRUT'S INTERNATIONAL airport before dawn on Thursday and killed at least 27 Lebanese civilians in a series of raids after Israel vowed a harsh response to the killing and capture of its soldiers by Hezbollah guerrillas.

Fighter jets swooped in on the airport, firing missiles on two runways, forcing the diversion of flights to neighboring Cyprus and the closure of the newly renovated airport.

Lebanese police said 27 civilians, including 10 children, were also killed in a wave of Israeli attacks on the south Thursday after the Hezbollah action that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert branded an "act of war."

Hezbollah also claimed to have fired a volley of rockets on northern Israel early Thursday. Israel said one woman was killed.

The killing of eight soldiers and the capture of another two by Hezbollah militants in fighting on the volatile Israel-Lebanon border Wednesday opened up a dangerous new front in the Middle East conflict.

Israeli warplanes also bombed the Palestinian foreign ministry in the Gaza Strip overnight in the latest offensive over the seizure of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian militants three weeks ago.

A total of 70 Palestinians have been killed in the military onslaught against Gaza, which the United Nations has warned is causing a humanitarian crisis in one of the most densely populated areas on earth.

World leaders have issued urgent appeals for restraint, although Israel's top ally, the United States, held Syria and Iran responsible for the fighting on the Lebanese-Israeli border, the deadliest since Israel ended its 22-year occupation of south Lebanon six years ago.

Hezbollah, or the Party of God, whose militia was instrumental in forcing Israeli troops out of Lebanon in May 2000, said it was demanding the release of Arab prisoners in return for the soldiers.

"They will only return home through indirect negotiations and an exchange of prisoners," Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said, saying the abduction was aimed at drawing international attention to the plight of "thousands of Lebanese, Palestinian and Arab detainees."

But Olmert insisted there would be no negotiations.

"This was an act of war without any provocation on the sovereign territory ... of the state of Israel," said Olmert, facing the most serious test of his leadership since his government took office in May.

On Wednesday, Israeli fighter jets, gunboats and artillery pounded Lebanon, hitting Hezbollah targets and about 10 bridges, cutting off the highway linking Beirut to the south.

After an emergency meeting, the Israeli Cabinet gave the green light to unspecified retaliatory action against Lebanon, which has been mired in its own political crisis since the murder of ex-Premier Rafiq Hariri in 2005 and is still rebuilding after the devastating 1975-1990 civil war. *AFP*

Archbishop: Don't let priests suffer for loving

WASHINGTON—ARCHBISHOP EMMANUEL Milingo, whose 2001 marriage caused an international scandal within the Roman Catholic Church, has set out on a new mission to override church rules and let married priests continue their ministries.

Milingo said he was championing the cause of married priests even before his marriage, but his new goal is to end the church's celibacy rule.

"I feel it is time for the church to reconcile with married priests," Milingo said. Now, he said, "They push him aside."

At a news conference Wednesday, he appealed to priests punished for marrying to "come out of their Catholic prisons and be reinstated, taking once more their pastoral responsibility among the married priests."

"To those priests who may feel that by marrying they have stepped down or fallen short, unleash your burden of humiliation, exclusivity and shame. Come among your fellow 'sinners,' so considered, who were to be branded, and to be forgotten forever as weaklings."

Milingo renounced his marriage and returned to the church in August 2001, four months after he and South Korean acupuncturist Maria Sung were united in a mass wedding presided over by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church.

"It was wrong," the Zambian archbishop said after spending a year in seclusion in Argentina. The late Pope John Paul II personally intervened to persuade Milingo to step away from the marriage.

The prelate credited with bringing Milingo back to the fold, Msgr. Tarcisio Bertone, was chief assistant to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger at the Vatican. Ratzinger now is Pope Benedict XVI, elected to head the church last year after the death of Pope John Paul II.

Milingo, 76, appears now to be back with his wife, although he said Monday, "This is irrelevant."

What is important, he said, is that the church stop making priests suffer for falling in love. "Some of them have been driven to become almost mental cases," he said in a telephone interview.

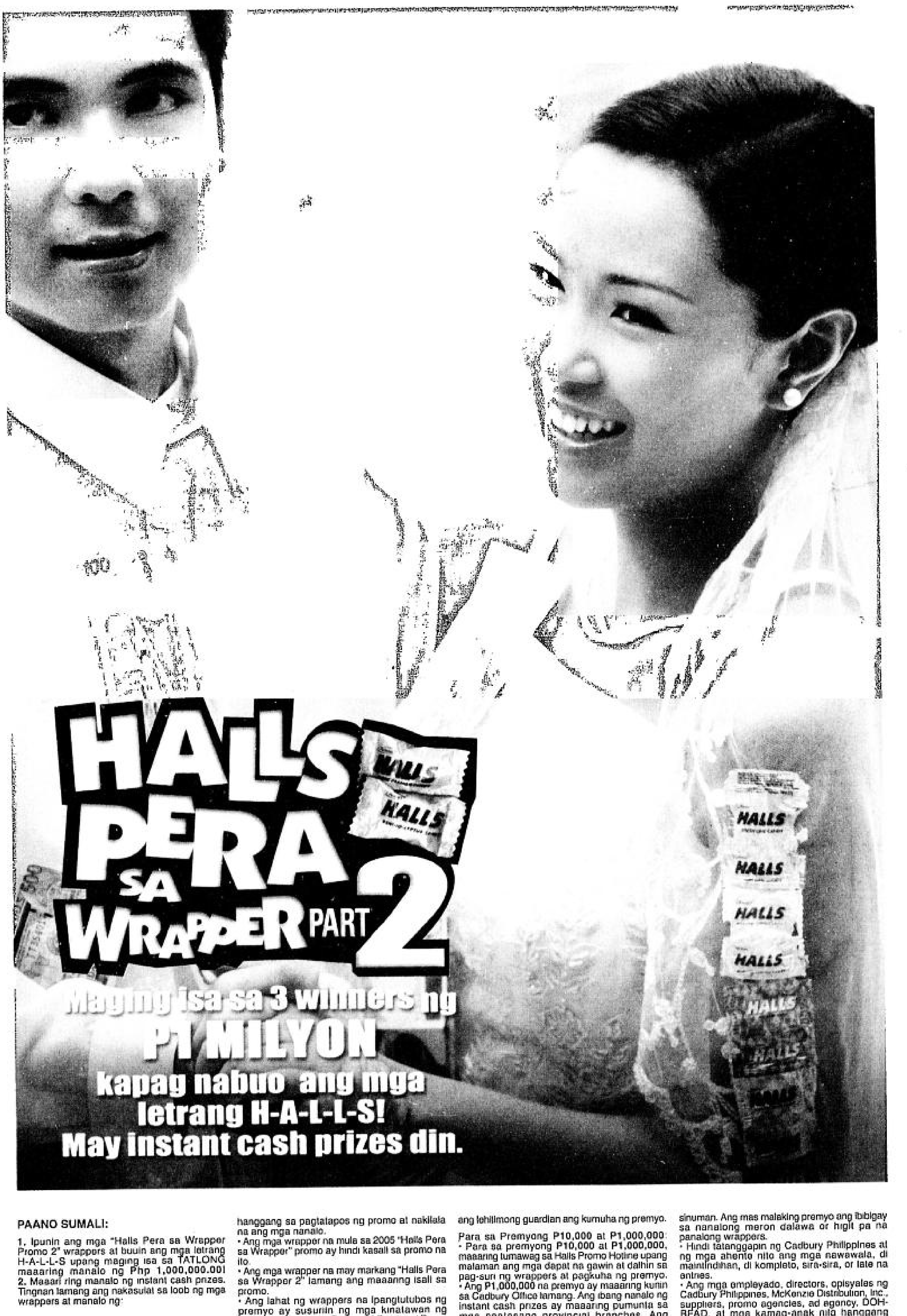
The archbishop said he is not leaving the church but wants to change it.

"My position is very clear in my understanding of my ordination by the church. Once a priest, always a priest," Milingo said. "Even though a priest can renounce his vows and be defrocked by the church, the church avows that he always remains a priest."

A priest who is married is not allowed to perform priestly duties such as hearing confessions or administering sacraments.

He estimated that 150,000 priests are in that position around the world and said half would be willing to return to active ministry if invited.

His host in Washington, Archbishop George Augustus Stallings Jr., said he "excommunicated myself from the church" in 1989 when he married and set up his own church, Imani Temple. He compared Milingo's situation with that of the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, a French cleric who broke with Pope Paul VI over modernization of the church and was suspended in 1976 after he ordained priests. John Paul excommunicated him for ordaining bishops. *AP*


HALLS PERA SA WRAPPER PART 2
Maging isa sa 3 winners ng P1 MILYON kapag nabuo ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S! May instant cash prizes din.
HALLS

PAANO SUMALI:

1. Ipunin ang mga "Halls Pera sa Wrapper Promo 2" wrappers at buuin ang mga letrang H-A-L-L-S upang maging isa sa TATLONG maaaring manalo ng Php 1,000,000.00!
2. Maaari ring manalo ng instant cash prizes. Tingnan lamang ang nakasulat sa loob ng mga wrappers at manalo ng:

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Php 2,000.00 - 200 winners
Php 1,000.00 - 1,000 winners
- Ang promo ay mula June 1, 2006 - September 30, 2006.

Wrappers sa Promo

- Ang mga wrappers ay tatanggapin na valid entries kung ito ay naaayon sa mga sumusunod na kundisyon: (i) Ang mga letra at salita na nakaimprenta sa loob ng wrapper ay kailangang nababasa; (ii) ang wrapper ay hindi nabago o pinakialaman ninuman; (iii) ito ay tunay at orihinal na Halls promo wrapper na gawa lamang ng Cadbury Adams Thailand Ltd.; (iv) ito ay binili sa Pilipinas; at (v) ito ay naglalaman ng tamang security codes.
- Bawat isang panalong wrapper ay may sarili at kakaibang security code, upang malaman sa pagsusuri kung ito ang tamang wrapper na dapat manalo. Ang Cadbury Confectionery Philippine Branch ("Cadbury Philippines") ay may karapatang di ipaalam sa publiko ang anumang impormasyon tungkol sa mga security codes hanggang sa pagtatapos ng promo at nakilala na ang mga nanalo.
- Ang mga wrapper na mula sa 2005 "Halls Pera sa Wrapper" promo ay hindi kasali sa promo na ito.
- Ang mga wrapper na may markang "Halls Pera sa Wrapper 2" lamang ang maaaring isali sa promo.
- Ang lahat ng wrappers na ipangtutubos ng premyo ay susuriin ng mga kinatawan ng Cadbury Philippines, Bureau of Food and Drugs ("BFAD"), at ng mga independent external auditors.

Pagsusuri/Pagkuha ng Premyo

Para sa P2,000 at P1,000 Instant Cash Prizes:
- Kapag nakakuha ng wrappers na may P2,000 o P1,000 instant cash prize, pwedeng magpunta sa Cadbury office o di kaya'y sa mga provincial branches na nakalista sa ibaba.
- Kailangang ipakita ang original na wrapper(s) at 2 valid IDs with picture, upang masuri ang mga ito ng mga kinatawan ng Cadbury Philippines. Maituturing lamang na panalo ang mga wrappers kapag ang mga ito ay napatunayang tunay at orihinal na panalong wrappers na may tamang security codes.
- Ano man ang ideklara ng Cadbury Philippines at ng mga kinatawan nito pagkatapos ng pagsusuri na naaayon sa BFAD, ay ituturing na huling desisyon at hindi na pwedeng i-apela.
- Maaaring makuha agad ng mga nadeklarang nanalo ang kanilang premyo pagkatapos ng pagsusuri. Kung ang nanalo ay menor de edad o may kapansanan, pwedeng ang magulang o ang lehitimong guardian ang kumuha ng premyo.

Para sa Premyong P10,000 at P1,000,000:
- Para sa premyong P10,000 at P1,000,000, maaaring tumawag sa Halls Promo Hotline upang malaman ang mga dapat na gawin at dalhin sa pag-suri ng wrappers at pagkuha ng premyo.
- Ang P1,000,000 na premyo ay maaaring kunin sa Cadbury Office lamang. Ang ibang nanalo ng instant cash prizes ay maaaring pumunta sa mga naatasang provincial branches. Ang pagkuha ng premyo ay hanggang sa Nobyembre 30, 2006 lamang. Ang mga premyong di pa nakukuha sa itinakdang araw na ito ay forfeited ayon sa desisyon ng BFAD.
- Maaaring ang proxy ang kumuha ng premyo o magpa-verify ng wrappers, kailangan lamang ipakita ang notaryadong letter of authorization mula sa nanalo, 2 valid IDs with picture ng nanalo at ng proxy, at ang mga panalong wrappers.
- Ang mga sinumiteng panalong wrappers sa pagkuha ng premyo ay pag-aari na ng Cadbury Philippines.
- Ang mga pangalan, larawan, at tirahan ng mga nanalo ay ilalathala sa mga pahayagan sa loob ng 2 linggo matapos malaman ang mga panalo. Maaari rin itong gamitin sa iba pang mga patalastas.
- Ang pamasahe at iba pang gastos ng mga nanalo para sa pag-suri ng wrappers at pagkuha ng premyo ay hindi pananagutan ng Cadbury Philippines
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- Hindi tatanggapin ng Cadbury Philippines at ng mga ahente nito ang mga nawawala, di maintindihan, di kompleto, sira-sira, or late na entries.
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Para sa mga katanungan tungkol sa promo na ito, tumawag sa Halls Promo Hotline. (02) 883-4127 (Mon-Fri, 9-12nn, 1-4pm).

Per DOH BFAD Permit # 0006 series of 2006

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **3 RP jungolfers** on threshold of world titles /A27

SPORTS

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MVP Cup gets off the ground today

SECOND SERVING: Crowd fave Taufik Hidayat

Hidayat leads crack Asia squad anew vs Europe

By Musong R. Castillo

TAUFIK HIDAYAT, THE FLAMboyant badminton ace who is a virtual national hero in Indonesia, leads Asia's charge again in the MVP Cup: Asia vs Europe 2 challenge today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The reigning world and Olympic champion, Hidayat will be spearheading a crack Asian side that will slug it out for three days against some of Europe's finest shuttlers in a Ryder Cup-style event that offers $60,000 to the winning team.

Manny V. Pangilinan, chair of SMART Communications and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is bankrolling the challenge for the second straight year to give the Filipinos a chance to witness world-class badminton action.

Filipinos Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion, the country's best in the sport, are slated to play in the mixed doubles, which will be a crucial part of the tournament on the final day Sunday.

"The goal of the tournament is to be able to expose Filipino athletes to world-class competition," Pangilinan said. "We aspire to achieve excellence in a sport we are passionate about."

Badminton has enjoyed a tremendous boom in the country and last year's MVP Cup underscored that fact when it played to huge crowds in each of its three days at the PhilSports in Pasig.

Leading Europe will be Kenneth Jonassen, the Danish world No. 4, and Gail Emms, the Englishwoman regarded as the other half of the strongest mixed doubles team in the world.

The first team to win 10 points takes the MVP Cup and the $60,000 (P3.15 million) champion's cash prize. The competition will also feature one match each in men's and ladies' singles today, as well as a men's doubles clash.

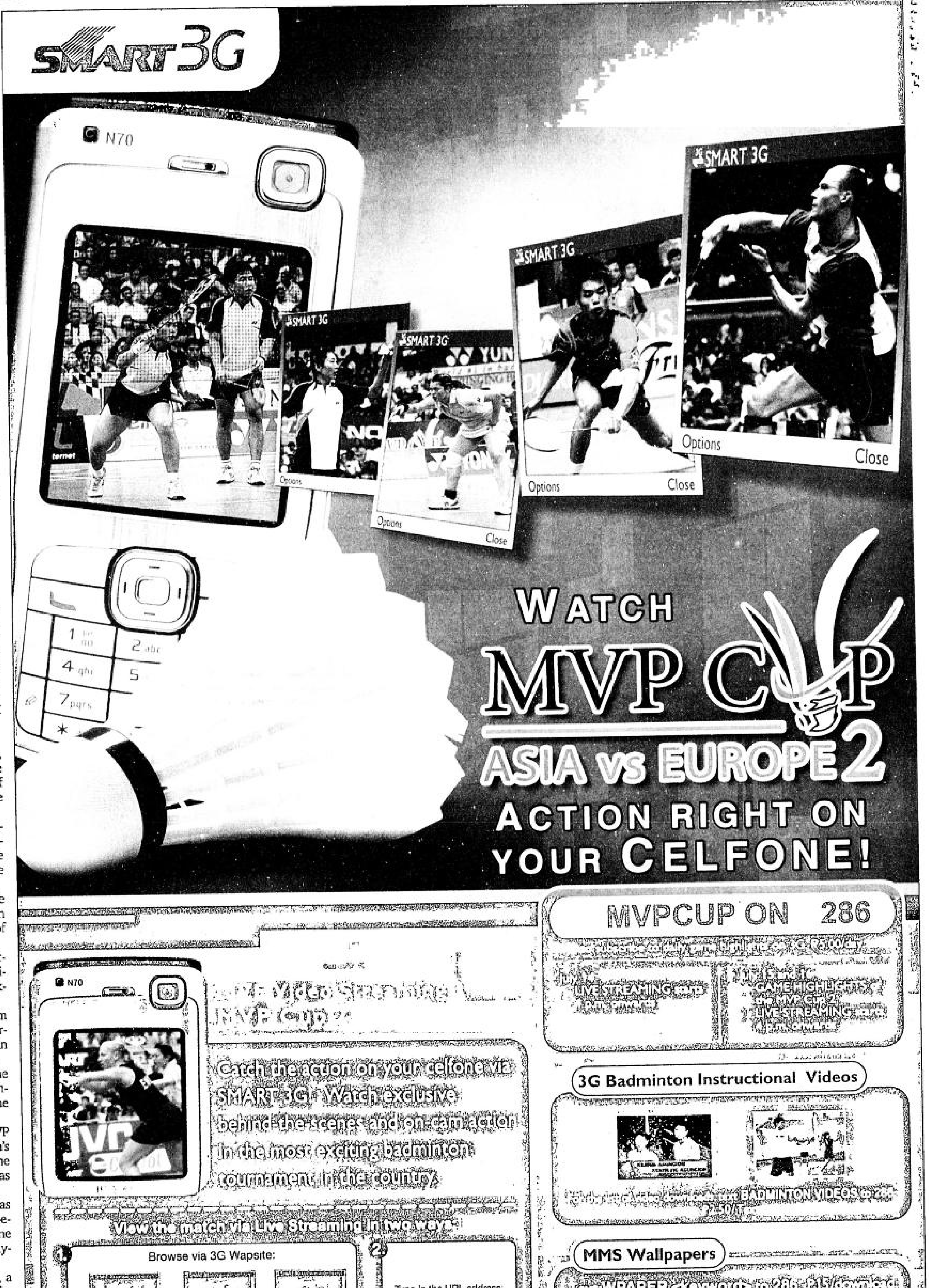
Matches in ladies' and men's singles, as well as a ladies' doubles contest are on tap tomorrow before the mixed doubles clashes featuring the Asuncion siblings against Denmark's Tomas Laybourn and Kamilla Rytter-Juhl.

Each win on the first day is worth a point, a victory tomorrow is good for 2 points and the winners in Sunday's action will earn three points.

The MVP Cup 2 is being presented by SMART and PLDT myDSL and sponsored by JVC, ABC5, Snickers, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star, Information Gateway, Toby's Sports, Discovery Suites, Gatorade and California Pizza Kitchen.

The others on the Asian team are China's Lin Dan and Zhang Ning, Malaysians Choong T. Fook and Lee Wan Wah, Thais Saralee Thoungthungkam and Sathinee Chankrachangwong, Gopichand Pullela of India and South Korea's Bang Soo-hyun.

Robert Blair came in as a late substitute for Poland's Michale Logosz on the Euro team, which will also have Denmark's Brian Agerbak and Niels Christian Kaldau, the Netherland's Mia Audina and Yao Kie, England's Donna Kellogg and Poland's Robert Mateusak.



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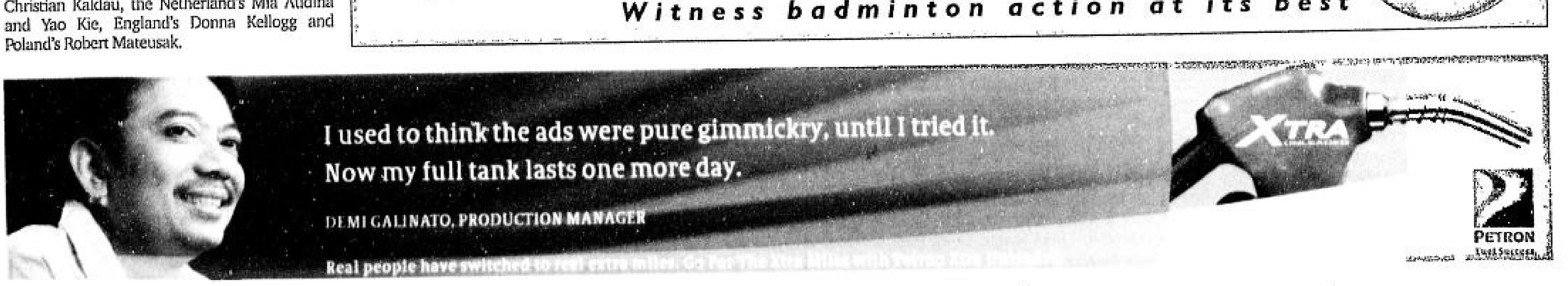
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DEMI GALINATO, PRODUCTION MANAGER

Couple that prays together, wins together

KRIS Aquino and MVP James Yap paint a picture of a happy couple. ERIK ARAZAS

By June Navarro

THE VOICE WAS FAMILIAR, ONE THAT YOU HEAR in a daily noontime television game show and showbiz talk on Sunday afternoons.

"Thank you for the support," said Kris Aquino, a day after husband James Yap of Purefoods snared the season Most Valuable Player award in the Philippine Basketball Association. "It was really special for us."

The youngest daughter of former President Corazon Aquino who has survived many controversies to emerge a leading light in the entertainment industry is one of two inspirations behind Yap's unexpected feat.

"Besides my family, she's (Kris) my inspiration," said Yap, who nosed out teammate Kerby Raymundo and Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva behind the solid vote of the media to become only the second sophomore pro—after Willy Miller—to clinch the MVP plum.

"She motivates me and gives me strength during difficult times," Yap added.

When the Gianta hotshot narrowly lost the rookie of the year award to Rich Alvarez last year, Kris stood by the former UE King Warrior.

So when redemption came Wednesday night in the annual PBA season awards, she was Yap's No. 1 cheerleader on the sidelines.

As a gift, Kris will fly James to Los Angeles and Hawaii for a two-week business and pleasure vacation. Among others, Kris and James will watch the international opening night of Aquino's movie, "Sukob" in LA and Hawaii.

"When I lost the rookie award, she (Kris) felt really sad for me," recalled Yap. "We always prayed together so I can have a fruitful career this year."

Kris and James, who tied the knot in a low-profile civil wedding on July 10 last year, go to Mass every Tuesday in Forbes Park and every Sunday in Baclaran. They attend prayer meetings in between.

Yap also acknowledged the help his uncle Emmanuel did in molding him into a hard-working player back in Escalante, Negros Occidental.

"If not for him, I will not be here," said Yap. "Tito Emmanuel guided me throughout my career.

"Winning the championship (of the ongoing Philippine Cup) will make everything complete," said Yap.

The title series takes a one-week break with Purefoods a win away from clinching the crown after opening a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven playoffs against Red Bull.

Knights stake clean card versus Dolphins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DEFENDING CHAMPION LETRAN STAKES ITS UNBEATEN RECORD against last year's runner-up Philippine Christian University today in the first clash of NCAA basketball tournament heavyweights at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

STANDINGS	W	L
Letran	3	0
PCU	4	1
San Beda	4	1
Mapua	2	2
Perpetual	2	3
S. Sebastian	2	4
St. Benilde	1	3
Jose Rizal	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
12 noon—SSC vs. San Beda (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs. St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs. Letran (Srs/Jrs)

The only team without a loss at 3-0, the Knights will have their hands full against the Dolphins who are also unscathed in their last four games and are now breathing down their necks with a 4-1 record, in a tie with idle San Beda.

However, Letran coach Louie Alas admits they are not the same squad that turned back the Dolphins, 2-1, in the title series last year.

"We have lost four key players and we will be facing practically an intact PCU squad," said Alas.

"We have to be super aggressive because PCU is mentally tough. They don't panic in the fourth quarter. They are a strong team and they are aware of it.'"

Indeed, PCU has been winning games in the final quarter, beating San Beda, San Sebastian, Perpetual and Jose Rizal in similar come-from-behind fashion.

But it's not something PCU coach Joel Dualan is proud of.

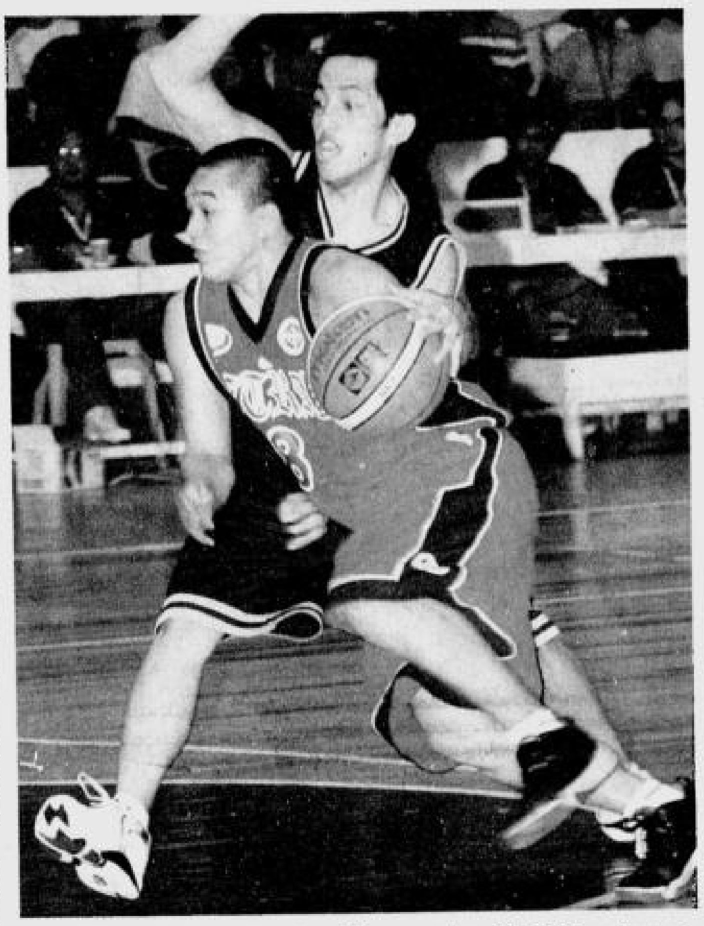
"We have yet to see our real potential because we haven't won a game by a big margin," he said. "It's as if the boys are always challenging themselves to snatch the victory away in the last quarter.

"Nonetheless, I hope we could get our fifth straight win."

Mapua (2-2) and host College of St. Benilde (1-3) collide in the other senior match at 2 p.m.

The defending champion San Sebastian Staglets clash with the San Beda Red Cubs earlier at 12 noon. The Squires and the Baby Dolphins collide at 6 p.m.

Man for man, the Dolphins have an edge with a lineup led by 2004 Rookie-MVP awardee Gabby Espinas, Jason Castro, Ian Garrido, Lei Navarro and Robby David.



LETRAN spitfire Boyet Bautista drives past Jose Rizal's Marc Terence Gacoco in a recent game won by the Knights. ERIK ARAZAS

Vilog, Gatmaitan rule triathlon in Los Baños

FORMER NATIONAL TRIATHLON champion George Vilog captured the third leg of the Speedo-National Age Group Triathlon series in heavy rains in Los Banos Saturday.

Vilog made his move in the bike leg to take the lead for the first time and went on to win in 1 hour 14 minutes 32 seconds over duathlon coaches Mark Candelaria (1:15:45) and Peter Gonzalez.

Already the winner in the Davao City leg, Vilog picked up 100 points and vaulted into the series lead.

Other male winners were Andrew Gatmaitan, 1:23:06 in the 19-and-below age group; Miguel Ferido, 1:29:32 in the 20-24; Patrick Joson, 1:23:53 in the 25-29; Candelaria in the 35-39: and Emilio Rafols, 1:32:01 in the 40-44 group.

Fernando Sulpido won the 45 to 49 group in 1:40:21, Alfredo Rustia ruled the 50 to 54 group in 1:53:24, Roy Lucero topped the 55 to 59 in 2:26:03, while retired Navy commander Tirso de Luna took first for those 60 and above in 2:25:45 of the race also sponsored by David's Salon and Spa, PowerBar, Asian Centre for Insulation Inc. and the Phil. Sports Commission.

UAAP games reset due to floods

ELIMINATION ROUND games of the 69th UAAP basketball tournament yesterday were cancelled due to floods in Metro Manila. The UP-National University and Santo Tomas-Adamson tussles have been reset to later dates, with the original schedule to be followed.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Pulilan Beauty (4) Air Power (1), He's So Lucky (2), Gelay's Charm (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Gundam (6), Suavetiger (3), Sol Invictus (8), Straight Forward (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Aryaam (4), Winter's Fury (5), Cebuana Spell/Earl Gray (2), Lord of All (6)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Tanging Ikaw (4), Formidable Jaeda (5), Bingbong (3), Island Lord (2)
Race 5—(Penta.Qrt/Tri)—Luxardo (4), Good Landing/Tres Jaune (6), Big Deb (7), Penny Wise (2), War Alert (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Full of Fury (3), Semper Spirit (8), Cara Dura (7), Flaming Heart (6)
Race 7—(Pentafecta/Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (7), Primo Supremo (9), St. Smilion (8), Royal Bert (1), Yonder Girl (4)
Race 8—(Qrt/Triz)—Anytime Anywhere (4), Well Noted (2, Awesome Power (6), Ingay Ingay (5)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane bomb (4), Bold Lucky (9), Desert Breeze (2), Presidentiable (6), Jayvie's Godfather (1), Angel Eyes (10)

7th Asian Games stint for 'Tac' Padilla

VETERAN INTERNATIONALIST NATHANIEL "Tac" Padilla has made it to the Asian Games for the seventh time since 1978.

The 41-year-old Padilla, general manager of Spring Cooking Oil, equaled the Asian Games qualifying score of 564 points in the rapid fire pistol event recently to gain a slot on the Philippine team to the 2006 Doha Games this December.

"I'm happy to be back on (the national) team," said Padilla. "At least I managed to shoot a fairly good score despite lack of practice."

Padilla, son of former Olympian Mariano "Tom" Ong, first made it to the Bangkok Asiad in 1978. He represented the country again in the Asiad in New Delhi (1982), Seoul (1986), Beijing (1990), Bangkok (1998) and Busan (2002).

Shooting association president Arturo R. Macapagal has written the 2006 Asian Games Task Force, informing it of Padilla's qualifying feat.

Macapagal also recommended the inclusion of Veneranda Garcia to the ladies' team trap, where she will join Annmaria Gana and Gay Josefina Corral, and Paul Brian Rosario, who broke the individual skeet criteria of 116 with 118 at the PSC/PNSA range in Muntinlupa City. Others who have made the RP squad are Jethro Dionisio, Eric Ang and Jaime Recio in men's team trap; Carolino Gonzales in free pistol and Susan Aguado in air pistol and sport pistol.

PADILLA: Rapid fire pistol qualifier

Missing Coke Go-for-Goal

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

UP TO NOW, I AM MISSING THE ANNUAL Coke Go-for-Goal tournament which was shelved a few years back despite the event's good start and the organizers' high hopes.

In my view, this nationwide football program for players 16 years and younger should not have been abandoned because of its contribution to the development of soccer in the country, a fact which has been cited several times by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Launched in 1984 by the Coca-Cola Export Corp., Coke Go-for-Goal should be revived not only to promote "the greatest game on earth" but also to encourage more Filipinos to actively participate in a sport where—at the risk of being repetitive—height is not an advantage.

The program does not promise instant fame and fortune, but in the words of lawyer Rene Adad, the moving spirit behind the project and former Philippine branch manager of the Coca-Cola Export Corp., "Coke Go-for-Goal offers the lifetime reward of discipline, sportsmanship and honesty to the young players, most of whom come from poor families and impoverished public schools."

It is a living symbol of a genuine grassroots sports development program that bridges the gap between rich and poor, between a wide variety of ethnic groups and among people from dramatically diverse background.

According to Adad, a former president of the Philippine Football Federation, Coke Go-for-Goal got off the launching pad in 1976 under the aegis of Fifa, the international football federation, after then Fifa president Dr. Joao Havelange of Brazil convinced top honchos of Coca-Cola, a longtime sponsor of the Olympic Games, to support this youth-oriented program around the world. The tournament made its debut in Asia in 1979 in Hong Kong. Within a few years, similar tournaments were held across the region, including the Philippines where the program was started in 1984. During its prime, more than one million Asian youngsters actively played the game. In the Philippines, 80 teams initially took part, increasing in number to more than 400.

* * *

WHO'LL WIN SUNDAY'S HORSEMAN'S CUP? Speed, stamina, proper conditioning and more will make the difference in this Sunday's Horseman's Cup, the third and final leg of the 2006 Triple Crown Series, at the Santa Ana Park in Makati City.

Covering a distance of 2,050 meters, 10 horses have been nominated to dispute the P1.2 million first prize led by first-leg winner Don Exequiel, owned by sportsman Hermie Esguerra; and second-leg winner Special Edition of the Valentin Cayco Stable. The other horses are Jet Sutter, Dixie the Younger, Batong Silyar, Million Dollar, From This Moment, Sound of Silence, Mr. Victory and Twelve or Never.

Thus far, the only two-leg winners of the annual Triple Crown Series for three-year-olds are Native Gift (1978), Paris Match (1982), Vixen (1984), French Affair (1986), Reckless Lover (1990), Family Affair (1992), Mushi Mushi (1994) and Fight with Honor (1995).

In the 29-year history of the TC Series, only eight horses have scored a sweep, namely, Fair and Square (1981), Skywalker (1983), Time Master (1987), Magic Showtime (1988), Sun Dancer (1989), Strong Material (1996), Real Top (1999) and Silver Story (2001).

* * *

ALL SET FOR DANCE SPORT TOMORROW. A banner field of dance athletes will be competing in the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines' 10th anniversary Midyear Ranking and Competitions tomorrow at the PhilSports Arena. DSCP president Becky Garcia said five international adjudicators from Europe and Asia will act as judges in the tournament sponsored by Petron Corp., BMW Philippines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Pagcor, Joey 92.3 Rhythm, Water Zone and Savannah Moon.

"I'm grateful to all the sponsors who keep the tournament going," said Garcia, who will be assisted by members of the DSCP board led by lawyer Noel Laman.

Tickets are available at the Dance Sport Training Center, PhilSports Complex, Pasig City. For inquiries, call Anna Faye at 635-0116.

SPORTSWATCH

All set for 1st Highlands Ladies golf

WEATHER-PERMITTING, IT'S GOING TO BE A GRAND DAY AT THE PICturesque Tagaytay Midlands tomorrow when the First Highlands Ladies Cup fires off with a banner cast vying for prizes worth millions. Tee-off is shotgun style at 8:30 a.m. At stake as a hole-in-one prize on No. 3 is a hotel/air package from El Nido Resort in Palawan and Seair. Two Northwest Airlines tickets to the US are up for grabs on No. 5, a Baja Mexico cruise from Baron Travel's Royal Caribbean is at stake on No. 12 and the coveted Club Car is the prize for an ace on No. 17. Ceremonial drives for the event hosted by the Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter will be made by Willie Ocier of Belle Corp., Edgar Chua of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Marixi Prieto, chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Four fun holes await the golfers. A Barbie doll will be given to anyone whose ball lands within two-pin length on the third hole; a Motorola gift goes to whoever gets within two-pin length on the fifth, an HSBC golf bag is at stake for the longest drive on the sixth and two sleeves of Titleist balls from Dynamic Sports for those who get within two-pin length on the 17th. There are 70 sponsors supporting the fund-raising event. Philippine Amusement & Games Corp. (Pagcor) and Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp. joined the elite list of Platinum Sponsors led by Motorola and followed by Motorola Canopy, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Highlands Prime, HSBC, San Miguel Corporation, Baron Travel, Northwest Airlines, Club Car, Philippine Air Lines, and El Nido Resort with SeaAir. Aside from two PAL roundtrip tickets to Vietnam, upscale local resorts are up for grabs, such as, Boracay Surfside Resort & Spa with Asian Spirit, Club Marinduque Resort & Spa, El Nido Resort, and Camp John Hay.

19 entries lead Makati derby

THE THIRD BATCH OF 60 PARTICIPANTS SEE ACTION IN THE P3 MILLION "Salpukan Sa Taglugon" 5-cock derby which resumes tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. Entries must be submitted today from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475. After two days of action, 19 participants advanced to the championship round on July 22 with two wins each. Unheralded bets shone in the second round Wednesday night, led by the entries of Raymond Velayo (Arnis Master), Emil Chua (Concrete Breaker), Ching Morales (El Matador), Louie Cua (Leonard), Osang dela Cruz (Gold Quest Champ), Butchoy Olano (Ika Mae Pasay), B. Ang (BU Wang) and Boy Marso (Sabong World).

Newcomers top Roligon's 'Hatawan'

NEWCOMERS CESAR MARQUEZ OF QUEZON CITY AND RICKY YULO OF Davao emerged as co-champions in the "Hatawan" 6-cock derby Tuesday night at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Marquez's KKK entry posted the fastest winning time of 12 seconds flat, edging Yulo's Showtime bet (14.1 sec.) to win a brand-new Honda Civic in the 256-entry event sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Up next at Roligon is the "Motorcycle Festival" 4-cock derby on Aug. 1, 3 and 5, with P1 million in cash prizes at stake. Entry fee is P6,600. For inquiries, call 851-2275. 833-1638 or 852-9812.

Metro cockers clash in Pasay special

PROMINENT COCKERS FROM METRO MANILA COLLIDE TODAY IN A special 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit with more than P200,000 in cash prizes at stake. The 62-fight program sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and hosted by Dick Ame and Weng and Rudy Torres features top entries of 2006 PCCA Cocker of the Year Pol Estrellado, Boy de Roca, Patrick Antonio, Georgie Antonio, Pepito Ngo, Joel Fernando, Ramon Mancenares, Dodie Villarubio, Lito Roque, Cito Manansala, Rey Cabial, Amor Salvanera and Boy Corcuera. Entry fee is P8,800. Meanwhile, Pasay cockpit's 20th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby comes next on July 24, 26 and 28 with P2 million at stake. For inquries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816 -6750.

THREE-COLOR HAUL
James Luzuriaga shows the gold, silver and bronze medals he won in the tough 2006 World Taekwondo Festival and Korea Classic Open held in Jeonju City, South Korea, recently. The high school freshman at De La Salle-Zobel keyed the Philippines' third-place overall finish behind South Korea and Australia in the 45-nation competition. The RP team was led by national coach Ricardo Santiago.

Siso bags 2 crowns in Milo junior tennis

OZAMIZ—SALLY MAE SISO EDGED LOCAL BET Yzel Ilisan, 6-3, 6-4, in the girls' 12-under final, then whipped elder sister Sallydine 6-1, 6-3 in the girls' 14-under to emerge a double champion in the 2006 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop over the weekend at the City Engineer's Tennis Club. Sally Mae shared the limelight with fellow Cebuanos Vince Tabotabo who nipped Frencharles Cabrera, 6-2, 7-5, for the 10-under title; Rogelio Estano who routed Francis Derrick Alcantara, 6-3, 6-2, for the 12-under crown; Rophie Santos who bested Kent Tac-an, 6-3, 6-4, in the 18-under final; Honey Gilles who whipped Lovelle Soquino, 6-2, 6-2, for the girl's 16-under diadem; and Soquino who won over Nikki de Dios, 6-4, 7-5, 10-3, for the girls' 18-under title. Club president Romeo Cabrera awarded the trophies to the winners in the tourney supported by Prince equipment and Adidas.

3 RP jungolfers on threshold of world titles

By Jong Arcano

TWO IN FRONT: Dottie Ardina with dad Ed ROGER MARGALLO

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—A REVIVAL OF THE PHILIPPINES' glory days in the Callaway Junior World Championships loomed on the horizon as Dottie Ardina and Mia Legaspi seized the upperhand and Cyna Rodriguez put herself in the mix after the penultimate round on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila).

After an otherwise quiet first day, the Philippine delegation made a lot of noise through the 12-year-old Ardina, who remained hot with her borrowed clubs and Legaspi, a 7-year-old who took up the game only two years ago and is now 18 holes away from becoming a world champion.

Legaspi submitted the first sub-par round—a 57—on three birdies and two bogeys in the girls' Class E play at the Pine course of the Sycuan Golf Club for a 36-hole total of 123, four shots clear of Fil-Hawaiian Allisen Corpuz and Wang Ziyi of China.

RODRIGUEZ: One shot behind

Ardina put herself on track for a second world title when the former 8-under winner carded a second consecutive 3-under 70 at the Cottonwood course. She will tee off in the final round of Class C (11-12) Thursday with a two-shot lead over Fil-Japanese Mariko Tumangan, who had a 69.

It was a big day for the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines delegation which is bidding to score its first double victory here since 1985, when Carito Villaroman and Ramon Brobio won Class A and Class B, respectively.

Both jungolf greats, who are now professionals, also pulled off the same feat in 1983.

Rodriguez boosted the RP campaign all the more when she cracked par for the second straight day, this time with a 70 at the Oak course of Sycuan, to emerge a strong contender in the girls' Class B (13-14) play.

At 141, Rodriguez was within a shot of Elisa Aoki of Japan (71-140) with two Thais just two and three shots behind the leader.

Miguel Tabuena and JR Gonzales carried the day for the boys' bets of the contingent backed by Philippine Airlines, Pagcor, PCSO and ICTSI.

Tabuena struggled on the front nine en route to a 74-146 that left him tied for seventh in boys' Class C, seven shots adrift of American Grayson Murray.

Gonzales, winner of the 7-8 years title two years ago, had a 62-125 and was six shots behind in a tie for fifth.

Wolen Superal, last year's 11-12 years champion, and Marcel Puyat both missed the cut in Class B at Riverwalk. Most of the RP bets in Class A were also in danger of missing the final round action at Torrey Piney with Tonton Asistio (78-152) the best performer at 37th place.

Debbie de Villa, the Philippine Ladies Open champ, revved up her bid in girls' Class A play with a 2-under 72 at Torrey Pines South that lifted her to a share of 17th place. She was 11 strokes of Mika Miyazato of Japan.

"I hope to win again but we'll never know until it's over," said Ardina.

Catalan quartet captures team pursuit bronze

BANGKOK—THE PHILIPPINES ADDED another bronze medal to its medal collection in the Asia Cup Round 2 here Wednesday by finishing third in the men's team pursuit.

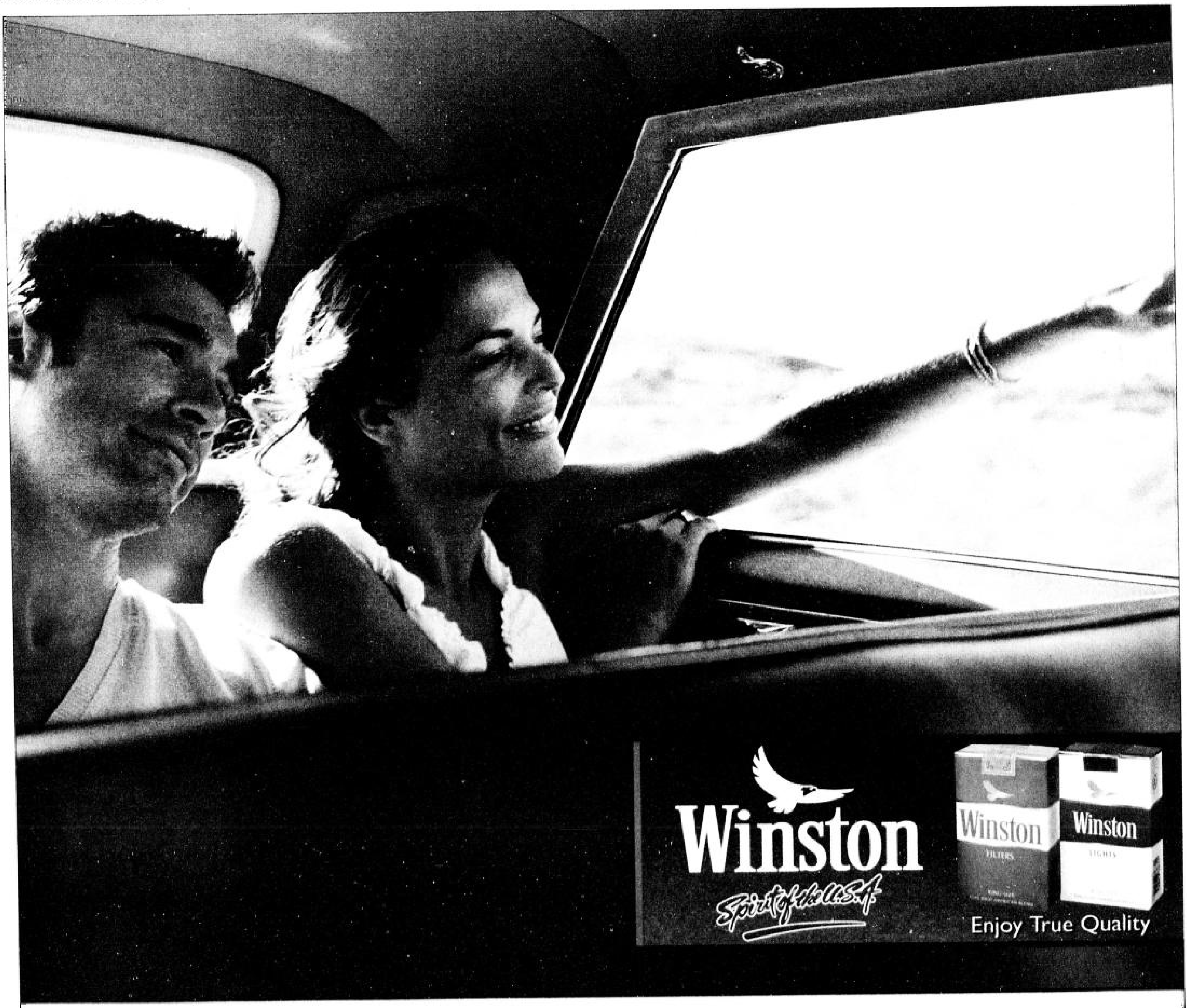
As if to underscore their readiness for the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December, the quartet of Alfie Catalan, Arnold Marcelo, Carlo Jasul and Paterno Curtan Jr. beat a vaunted Japanese team in the bronze medal race.

That bronze was the third for the Filipinos after Marites Bitbit wound up third in both the women's individual pursuit and the 500-meter time trial over the weekend in Round 1 in Ipoh, Malaysia.

In claiming the bronze, the Filipino quartet timed four minutes and 43.046 seconds, improving on the 4:45 they clocked in their silver medal-winning effort in the SEA Games last December.

China won gold in 4:30.325, while Malaysia took the silver in 4:32.057.

The Japanese clocked 4:55.638.



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SPORTS

James, Wade sign up for 4; Anthony for 5

NEW YORK—LEBRON James and Dwyane Wade relieved Cleveland and Miami fans by signing with their NBA teams on Wednesday but the superstars committed to only four more years.

MULTI-MILLIONAIRES: (From left) Anthony, Wade and James

Carmelo Anthony went for more guaranteed money.

New deals for the class of 2003 players were announced on the first day allowed after the NBA's moratorium on deals ended. But they aren't the big-money packages that were originally expected.

Rather than choose the five-year extensions they were eligible for that would kick in starting with the 2007-08 season, they went for three years with an option for a fourth—and the chance to become free agents sooner and potentially make even more money.

"It was a great business decision by me," Wade said. "As a young player, going for the three-year with a fourth year is the better option."

Anthony and Toronto's Chris Bosh, also top-five picks from the '03 draft, could have gone the same route. But Anthony went for a five-year deal with the Denver Nuggets worth an estimated $80 million.

"I thought this was the best move for me as a young player and I'm looking forward to it," Wade said. "I think with everything coming with LeBron and Carmelo and Chris, we all make our own decisions. Of course, we all talk, no question about it, because we're all friends … But everyone makes a decision for themselves, thinking about their futures and their families."

Elsewhere, the draft-night deal sending Rudy Gay to Memphis was finally completed, New Orleans added Serbia's Peja Stojakovic but lost Speedy Claxton, and the Los Angeles Clippers brought back Sam Cassell but watched Serbia's Vladimir Radmanovic head down the Staples Center hallway to the Lakers.

But the biggest news, as usual, was made by James and Wade, the MVP of the NBA finals.

The five-year deals would have been worth around $80 million (euro63 million), but James and Wade settled for some $20 million (euro15.7 million) less. However, when they become unrestricted free agents in the summer of 2010 as seven-year veterans, they can earn maximum contracts worth 30 percent of the salary cap under rules of the collective bargaining agreement. Players with fewer than seven years experience can earn only 25 percent of the cap. *AP*

Hectic weekend awaits Sy, Peña

A HECTIC WEEKEND AWAITS FILipino racing stars Tyson Sy and Dado Peña who are bidding to pull away from the field in the Asian Formula Three Series that visits the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong, China, for the second time this year.

Four races make up this week's latest challenge, including Round 6 that was called off last month after heavy rains flooded certain portions of the 4.3-kilometer Zhuhai track.

Round 6 will be held tomorrow morning, with the next round set in the afternoon after the battle for pole position. The next two rounds will be held on Sunday.

The starting grid for Round 6 will be based on the results of Round 5, with Irishman Ali Jackson of Aran Racing occupying the front row along with Briton Dillon Battistini of JA Motorsport, followed by Speedtech Asia's Sy and Team Goddard's Peña.

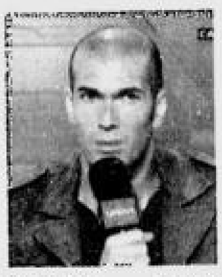
Sy and Battistini gained a reprieve the other day when the Automobile Association of the Philippines turned down a recommendation made by the Hong Kong Automobile Association that the points they garnered in the crash-marred Round 5 be deleted from the standings.

The AAP also reduced, from $5,000 to $2,000, the fines slapped on the two for disregarding a double yellow flag at the height of Round 5.

Had the points been deleted, Peña would have been the biggest beneficiary since he would have moved to solo second place overall. Battistini finished second in that race for 15 points while Sy earned 12 for third.

Zidane apologizes, insists Materazzi provoked him

PARIS—ZINEDINE ZIDANE SAID ON Wednesday he attacked defender Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final to defend the honor of his mother and sister.



ZIDANE REUTERS

The French captain said he could not let Materazzi's words on the pitch go unanswered, though he admitted head-butting the Italian was not a good thing to do.

In an interview with the French television channel Canal Plus, a chastened-looking Zidane also apologized to children and fans but said that he did not regret the attack which led to his sending off.

"He (Materazzi) pulled on my shirt several times and I told him that we could swap shirts at the end of the game if he wanted to," Zidane said in the live interview.

"He then pronounced very tough words, words that hurt me deeply, words about my mother and my sister. At first, I tried not to listen to him but he kept repeating them," Zidane said.

"I knew it was my last game and I knew there were only 10 minutes to play but things happened very swiftly," he said. "I am a man before anything else."

Materazzi has denied mentioning Zidane's mother during the game in Berlin last Sunday.

Zidane, widely considered the greatest player of his generation, rammed his head into Materazzi's chest with the score at 1-1 and minutes to play in the second period of extra time.

The 34-year-old, who said the final would be his last professional game, was shown a red card and left the pitch in tears watched by his stunned team mates.

France, deprived of their leader and chief penalty-taker lost the game, 5-3, on penalties.

Zidane denied Materazzi called him an Islamic "terrorist," as was reported by a Paris-based anti-racism group.

Born in Marseille in 1972, Zidane is of Algerian origin. His parents are from the village of Aguemone in the Kabylie region.

FIFA decided on Tuesday to open a disciplinary investigation into the incident and Sepp Blatter, head of soccer's ruling body, suggested Zidane could be stripped of the tournament's best player award.

Zidane said he was ready to face any disciplinary hearing, stressing that he was confident about the outcome. "If someone can read (Materazzi's) lips, they will show that I'm telling the truth. The one who is really guilty must be punished," Zidane said. *Reuters*

Climbers ready to charge

PAU, FRANCE—FREED FROM THE GRIP OF seven-times champion Lance Armstrong, the specialist climbers should have a field day on Thursday's 11th stage of the Tour de France.

The 206.5-km course will feature some of the most famous Pyrenean passes, Tourmalet, Aspin, Peyresourde, Portillon and the final ascent to the finish at the summit of Pla de Beret, in Spain.

The hors-category Tourmalet is part of the Tour legend since riders climbed its 18.3-km slopes, with a maximum gradient of 10 percent, for the first time in 1910.

The last climb would not be the hardest challenge of the day but for the massive presence of thousands of Basque supporters clad in the orange of the Euskaltel team.

Their flags, drums and slogans could inspire Spaniards Carlos Sastre, Oscar Pereiro or Iban Mayo to redeem themselves after under par performances in Wednesday's mountain stage. Russian Denis Menchov, Georg Totschnig of Austria, Jose Rujano of Venezuela, Italy's Damiano Cunego and Dane Michael Rasmussen will also be vying for a stage win. *Reuters*

REUTERS

LANCE Armstrong accepts the ESPY award for best male athlete from singer Mariah Carey at the 2006 ESPY Awards at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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Oscar calls for foreign film entries

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—TO AVOID A repeat of last year's snafu—when the Philippines failed to submit an entry in the Academy Awards' Best Foreign Film category—we are calling the attention of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP) to an announcement made last Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The academy has invited 83 countries to submit films for consideration in the said category for the 79th Academy Awards.

INQUIRER Entertainment asked FAP director general **Leo Martinez** last year about the absence of an entry from the Philippines in the Oscar derby. Martinez replied that the country "did not receive an invitation from the Oscars this year." He added that the FAP, which chooses the Philippine entry, "usually receives a letter of invitation from the Oscars as early as July or August."

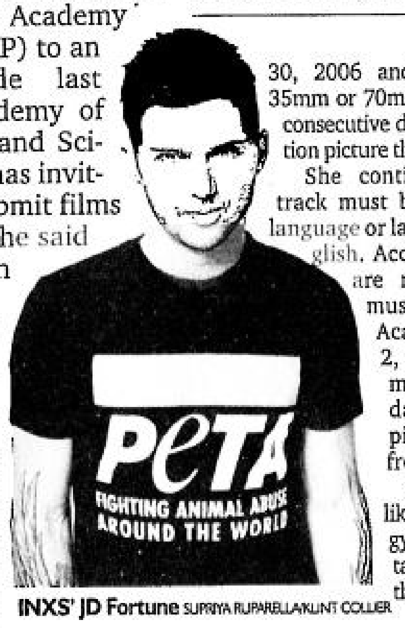
"In fact, one of our employees has already informed chair Espiridion Laxa that we haven't heard from the Oscars yet," Martinez explained. "It's not like we can write them and ask for an invitation. It doesn't work that way. All we can do is wait."

But **Teni Melidonian** of the Academy Awards has clarified the matter: "Countries that have not received letters of invitation and are interested in submitting a film for consideration should contact awards coordinator Torene Svitil at (310) 247-3000, ext. 116 or at tsvitil@oscars.org."

Teni elaborated on the rules: "To qualify for the 2006 awards year, a film must be released in the submitting country between Oct. 1, 2005 and Sept. 30, 2006 and publicly screened in 35mm or 70mm film for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater."

She continued: "The dialogue track must be predominantly in a language or languages other than English. Accurate English subtitles are required. Entry forms must be received at the Academy by Monday, Oct. 2, 2006, and film prints must be received by Friday, Oct. 13. Only one picture will be accepted from each country."

Even war-torn countries like Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan are receiving invitations for the first time this year.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Shocked champ

"I WAS REALLY shocked," was **Cheryl Burke**'s reaction to recently earning not one but two Emmy Award nominations in the choreography category for her work in "Dancing with the Stars."

The Fil-Am professional dancer, who won first place with **Drew Lachey** in last February's "Dancing with the Stars," was honored with Emmy nods for her choreography in two numbers, which she also performed with the former member of 98 Degrees—"Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy" (which drew raves on the show's message boards) and "Thriller." Fellow choreographer **Nick Kosovich** shared a nomination with Cheryl on the second number.

Cheryl recalled her wonderful wake-up call in our recent phone chat: "I was in New York and still sleeping when my publicist Susan woke me up around 9 a.m. and told me of my nominations. I wasn't expecting this at all. But what was most surprising to me was that I was nominated for not just one but two. It was a really exciting time for me. I'm very blessed. It's a wonder because I'm so young. I'm only 22. This is a huge thing for me."

She's in great company. Among the previous winners and nominees are **Paula Abdul**, "Chicago" director **Rob Marshall**, the late great **Bob Fosse** (for the TV special "Liza with a Z"), Deb-

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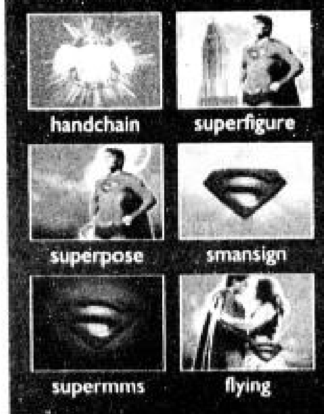

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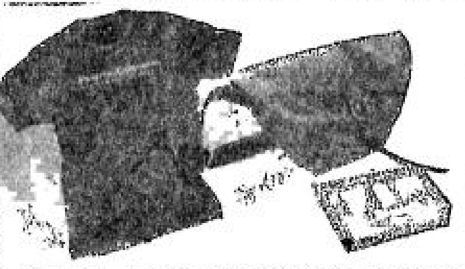

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I WANNA BE HAPPY
LOVEWRECKED
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
BATAS MILITAR
INITIAL D
THE NUN

SM CITY MANILA
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
LOVEWRECKED
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
BATAS MILITAR
LAKE HOUSE
FAST AND FURIOUS 3
SCARY MOVIE 4
INITIAL D
I WANNA BE HAPPY

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
SUPERMAN RETURNS
SUPERMAN RETURNS
BATAS MILITAR
LOVEWRECKED
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
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CHAOS
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
THE NUN
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PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
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3 THE FAST & THE FURIOUS -3

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN-2
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
9 INITIAL - D
10 BATAS MILITAR

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel 9341937
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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
4 INITIAL - D

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
5 BATAS MILITAR

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN - 2
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4 BATAS MILITAR

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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
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2	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 1:40, 11:30	G
3	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 11:30, 2:45, 9:30	G
4	SUPERMAN RETURNS 12:50, 4:20, 7:45, 11:10	G

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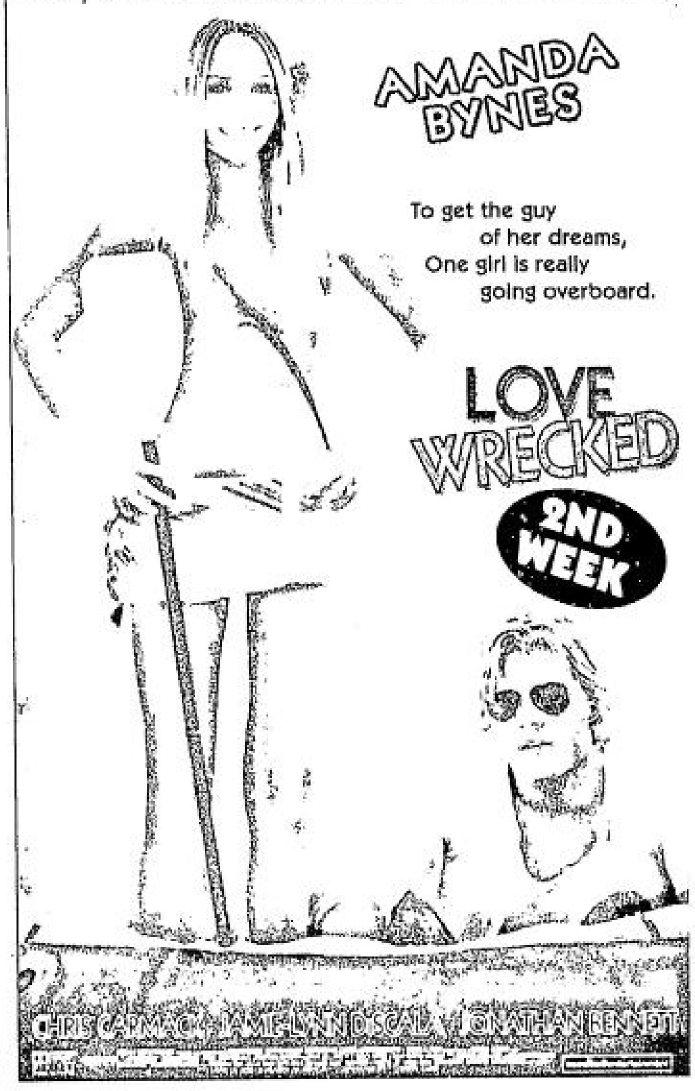
The Funny Girl from She's THE MAN is back in another Hilarious Romantic Comedy



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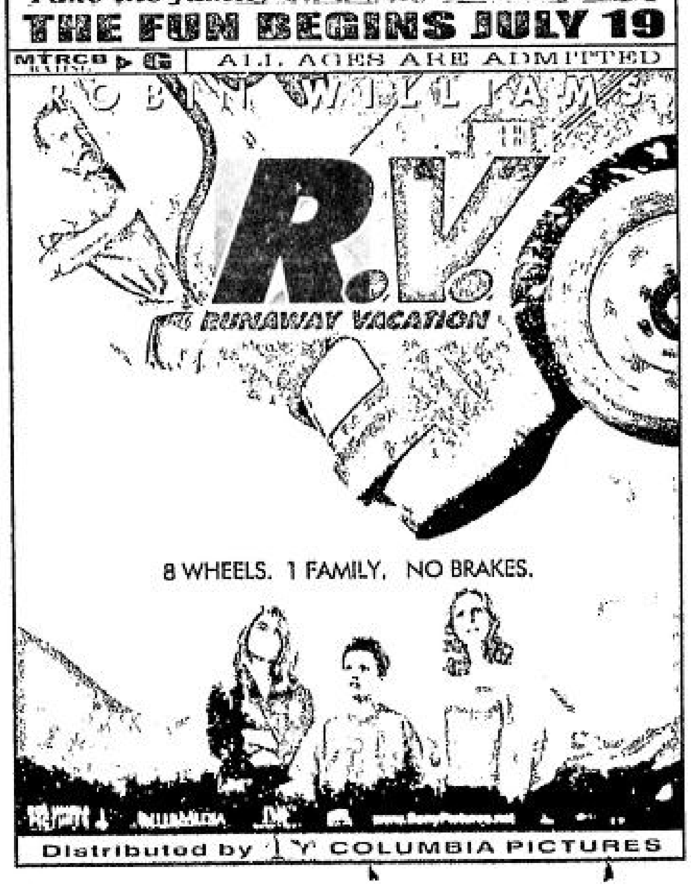

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Oscar calls for foreign film entries

From page A2-1

bie Allen (for the series "Fame") and modern dance legend **Twyla Tharp**.

Drew was very excited about the nominations, Cheryl added. "We both worked really hard on this," she said. "He and the show's producers called me to give their congratulations. I must have gotten 100 e-mails saying congratulations. The Emmys alone will be a very exciting event to attend."

As expected, Cheryl's No. 1 drumbeater, **Novo Ecijana Sherri Bautista Burke**, was all agog over the nods. "My mom is over the top," Cheryl quipped. "Both my parents kept calling that day. It was a great moment for me. I worked so hard and it really paid off."

The granddaughter of a PE teacher who zealously taught folk dances in Nueva Ecija explained that she's still surprised over how popular "Dancing with the Stars" is. "When you do the show, you focus on your work," she pointed out. "You don't think about the 27 million viewers watching. Different celebrities have come up to me and told me how they enjoy my work. It is still a surprise when I go out and people recognize me on the street."

Of her visit to the Philippines after her "Dancing" triumph, she enthused: "It was nice to go back. I had a great time. It was really nice to see the family and enjoy the food."

When asked about the highlight of her homecoming, she answered, "I got to meet the President (**Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**). It was very quick. I walked with her during one event and she congratulated me. She said she was proud of me. It was an honor."

What's next? "I'm waiting to see if I'll be back for season three of 'Dancing with the Stars,'" she said. "If I'm returning, I'll still be a dancer dancing with a celebrity."

JD, vegan

JAMIE Alarcon of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific dropped us an e-mail to proudly point out that J.D. Fortune, who is performing with his INXS band mates in a concert in Manila this August, "has been a big Peta supporter for years." Jamie enclosed a photo of J.D., a vegetarian, wearing a Peta shirt and looking very much like, what else—a rock star.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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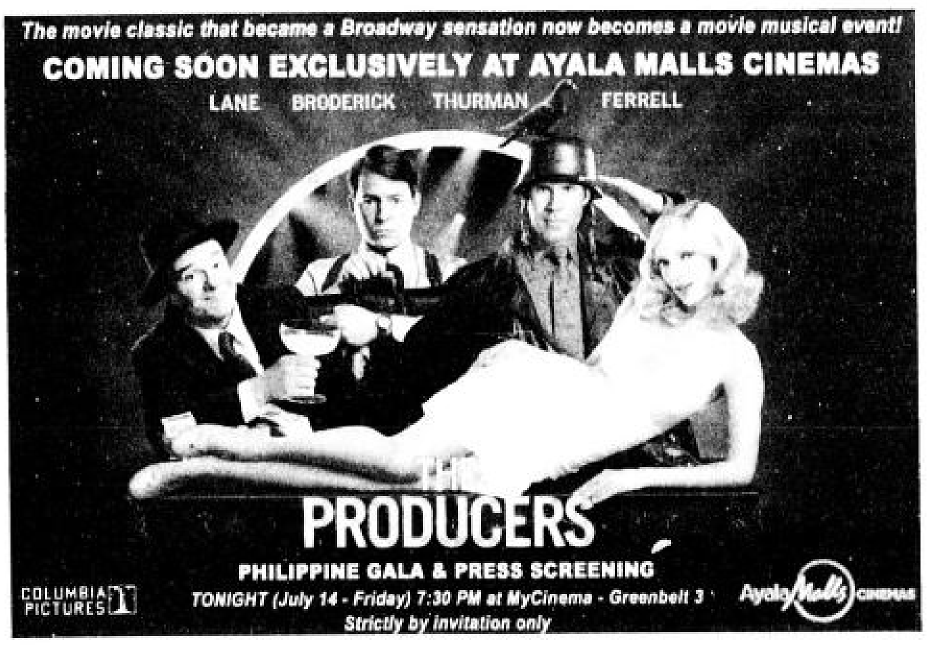
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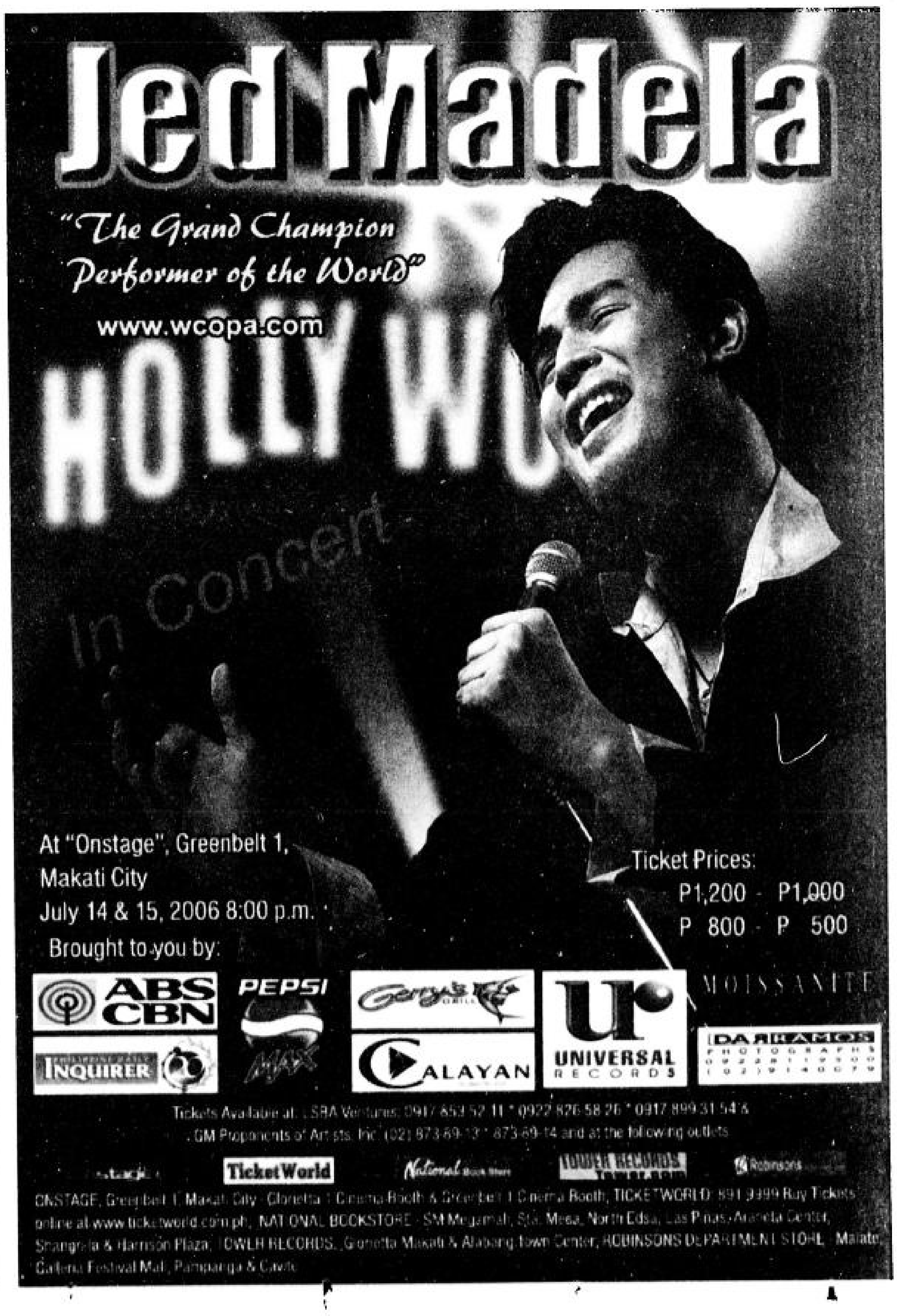
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DID YOU KNOW...

RICHARD GUTIERREZ WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN GMA 7'S 56TH ANniversary bash at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Cebu this weekend. The "Captain Barbell" star was pulled out by his mother and manager Annabelle Rama from the anniversary musical held at the World Trade Center on Sunday—reportedly due to a disagreement over the network's continued coverage of the tax problems involving the Gutierrez family. Network executives said on Wednesday that Rama had asked for a huge talent fee for Richard to appear in Cebu. Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for entertainment TV, could not be reached for comment. Rama was also unavailable. One of her aides confirmed that Richard was not part of the Cebu celebration, but denied that part about the talent fee. *Nini Valera*

'Tsong': Kids before GFs

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

JOEY MARQUEZ ASKS: "WHY DO WOMEN, when a love affair ends, refuse to remain friends?"

This shouldn't be a mystery; the women he had wooed, won and walked out on in the past had been a willful lot.

Can he tell when the end is near?

"When a woman starts competing with my children—for time and attention—that's when I say goodbye. I don't think any woman would like to be the second priority in a man's life."

He doesn't even try to explain to the woman, or to the public.

"Whatever they say, I just accept," Joey says.

This same advice he gave son Jeremy, whose relationship with girlfriend Alessandra de Rossi recently hit a snag: "I told him to be a gentleman, period."

As a comedian, Joey believes, he gets away with so much more than the ordinary guy.

"I make my girlfriends laugh. There's never a dull moment."

Once it's over, he makes it a point to keep his mouth shut "and to protect them, no matter what."

Rule of thumb

For example, when Benjie Paras, his co-star on the GMA 7 sitcom "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," cracked a joke about ex-wife Alma Moreno, Joey lost his cool.

"My rule of thumb is ... you can joke about everything, even my [receding] hairline. But not about the mothers of my children."

He reportedly slugged Benjie on the chest. Joey shrugs off that one: "*Lambingan lang 'yon* (That's just how we show affection)."

He says he has patched things up with Benjie. "We both apologized. Everything is back to normal on the set."

Another scuttlebutt that Joey has had to dodge concerned ex-girlfriend Alicia Mayer, who figured in a bar brawl because she supposedly got jealous after catching him with another girl.

"I don't know anything about that," he says. "It doesn't mean that because I'm talking to a woman, she's my girlfriend. But that's people's perception of me ... what can I do?"

Joey fights this "perception" even on the big screen.

In Jose Javier Reyes' "I Wanna Be Happy," he is breaking free of the carefree "Tsong"/"Bobo Cop" character.

"I was pleased when (Seiko producer) Robbie Tan offered me the role of a conservative dentist," he says.

So what makes him happy?

"My children," he replies quickly.

How many kids does he have, exactly?

"Enough to keep me working until the day I die."

JOEY with kids, from top right Yeoj, Wyn-Wyn and VJ

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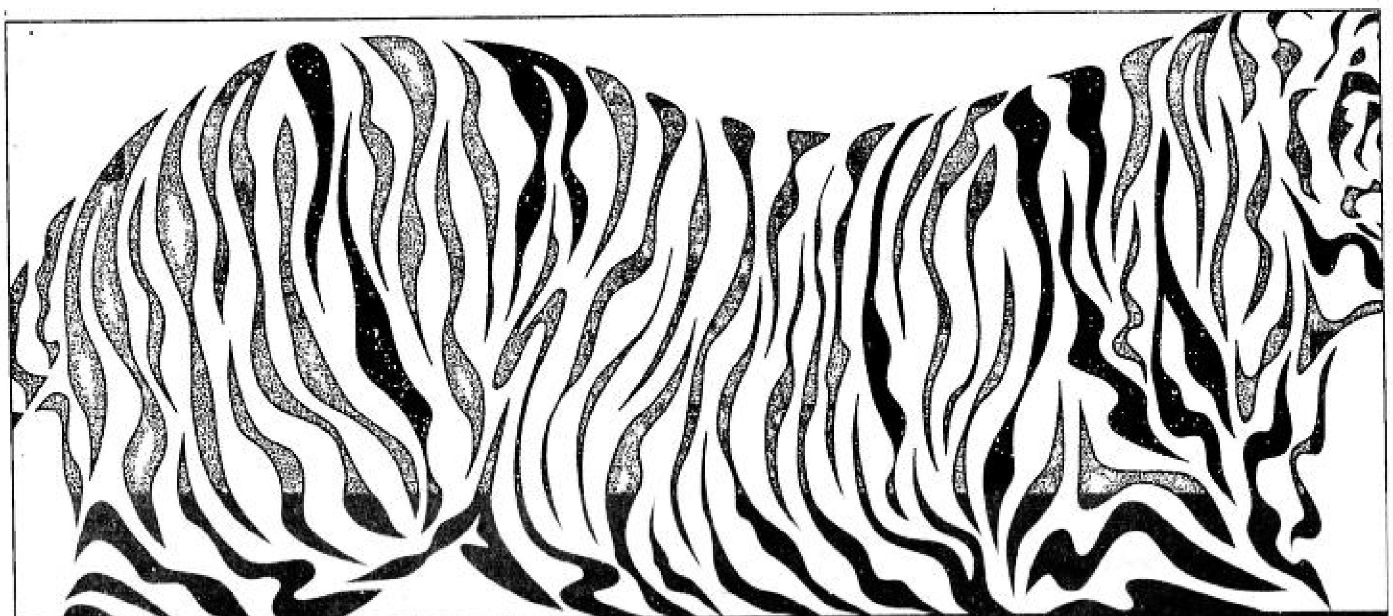
Nina Siemaszko
Wild Orchid 2



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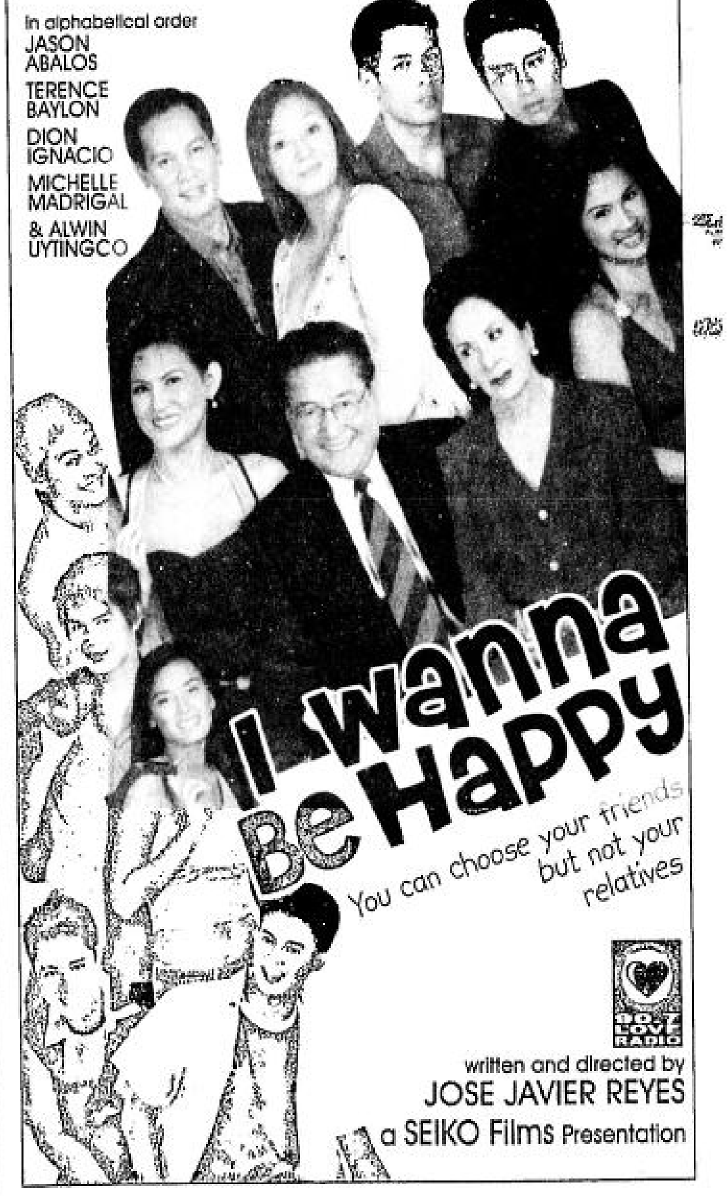
MICHELLE MADRIGAL
& ALWIN UYTINGCO



I wanna Be Happy
You can choose your friends but not your relatives
101.1 LOVE RADIO

written and directed by
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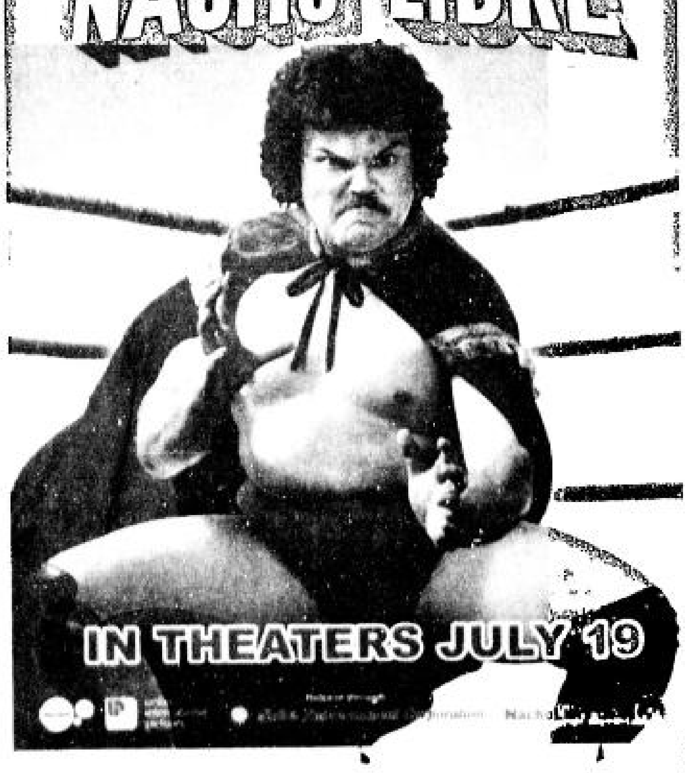

IN THEATERS JULY 19

STARS
Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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PARTY! PARTY!

Nic wears mom Lea's gown

... to the christening attended by just a few guests

DAD Rob plays shutterbug to the hilt. His subjects: Ninang Steffie, Nic, Ninong Gerald and Lea.

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Ryan Lim
Additional photos courtesy of Lea Salonga

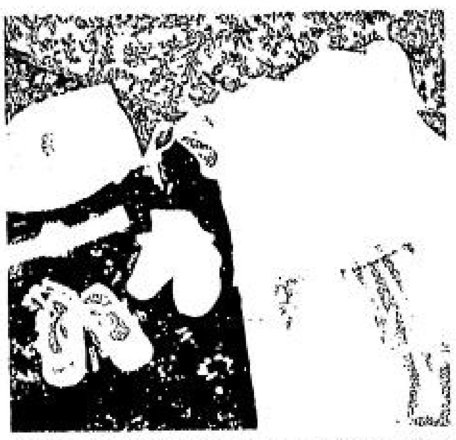
INTERNATIONAL THEATER STAR LEA SAlonga's firstborn, Nicole Beverly Chien, was baptized on Sunday at the St. James the Great Parish in Alabang, with only a handful of friends and family as witnesses.

It was "beautiful," Lea told INQUIRER Entertainment in an e-mail on Tuesday.

"It had rained really hard the day before," the happy mom wrote. "But the [actual christening] day was perfect, weather-wise."

The godparents were Lea's brother Gerard, best buddy Steffi Inocentes, Sony-BMG marketing and sales director Narciso Chan, theater colleague Menchu Lauchengo-Yulo and family friend Gina de Venecia (wife of Speaker Jose de Venecia). Gina, who was in Hong Kong at the time of the christening, was represented by sister Chona Perez-Ampil.

Lea had very carefully picked them: "They are all close friends ... people whom we know will help us raise Nicole to be the best person she can be. I wanted godparents who ... would really be there for Nicole as she grows, and grows up in faith. I also wanted people who represented Rob and me. These are different people from different worlds, coming together for this little girl."



THE BAPTISMAL trosseau, courtesy of 'Abu' Ligaya.

Ninang Steffi had crafted the invites, gift tags, party décor and balloon centerpieces, said Lea.

Dad Rob Chien played shutterbug to the hilt, happily clicking away all day.

How did baby Nic take the hubbub?

"Very well, I'm proud to say," Lea said. "She slept throughout the ceremony and flinched just a little when holy water was poured on her head. She also stayed asleep during the party at home, even as she was greeted by the guests. Even my mother couldn't believe how well-behaved she was."

Abu Ligaya revealed that Nic's baptismal gown was first worn by Lea to her own christening.

Ligaya recounted: "I kept the dress, cap and shoes for 35 years. It was made by one of Lea's

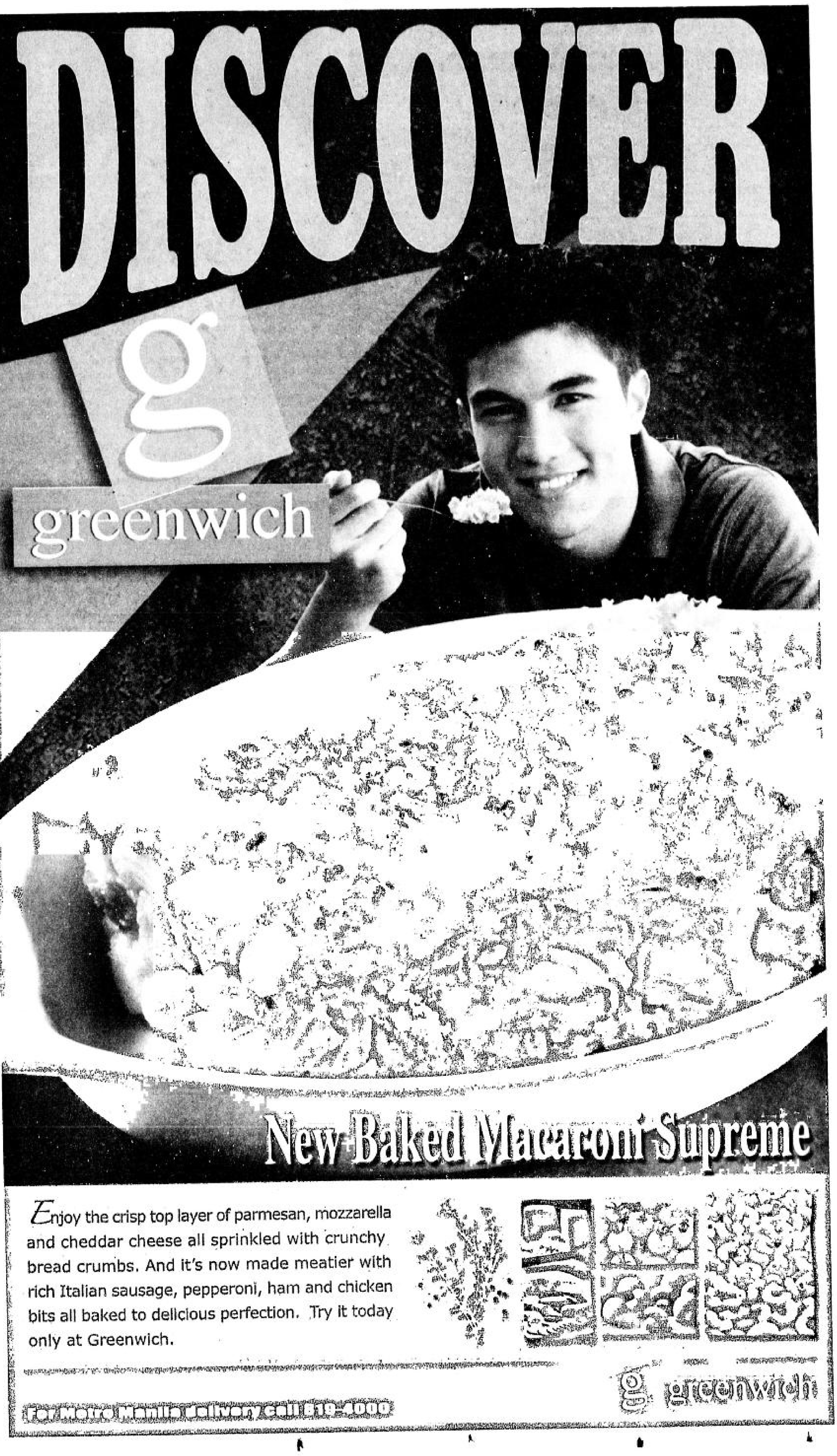
NIC/A3-3

TAIL TALES

LOVI POE

My mom's sister Rossan entrusted her Persian cat Ochie to me, just to see if I'd make a good pet owner. Ochie had three kittens—Sid, Scott and Smoothie. They're very cute. My *tita* said I could have one of them for my own. Which meant I had passed the test! I always bring them to the vet. I panic when they're sick. And I feed them a lot. They're kinda fat *na nga*. I treat them like babies. I'm thinking of adopting Sid, the most *malambing* (affectionate).

Bayani San Diego Jr.



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THE FAST & THE FURIOUS 3 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00	THE LAKE HOUSE [illegible]	LOVE WRECKED [illegible]
INITIAL D 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 12:35 / 1:10 / 3:35 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 10:10	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

ALIMALL 5

1	I WANNA BE HAPPY 12:10 R3 / 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50	SUPERMAN RETURNS 11:30 / 2:30 / 5:30 / 8:30	PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
4	BATAS MILITAR 12:05 R2 / 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45	SEE NO EVIL 1:10 / 3:00 / 4:50 / 6:40 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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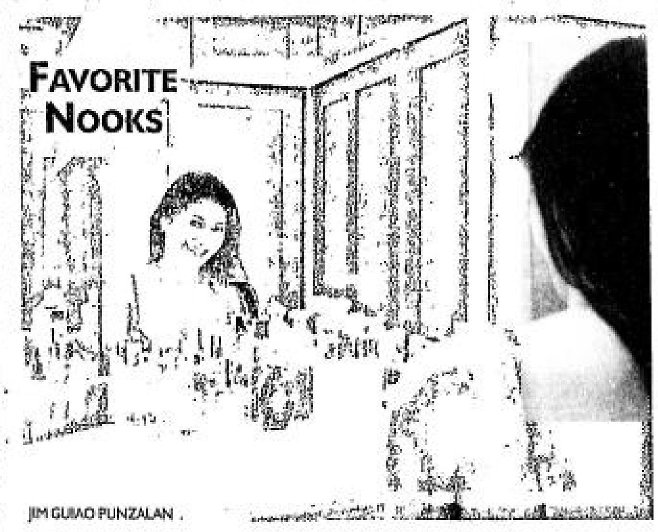


JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

RUFFA MAE QUINTO

This is my favorite place in the house: the bathroom. When I wake up, I come here to take a shower. And again when I get home from work—straight to the shower.

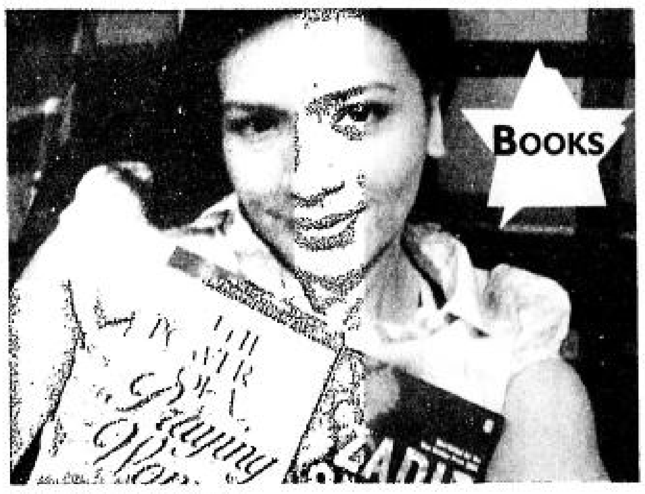
But it's not just a place to freshen up. I also come here when I'm sad and when I what to think, read, or just be alone.

Marinel R. Cruz

REGINE Velasquez – Pepsi Herrera

PHOTOS: RODEL RC

BOOKS



ZSAZSA PADILLA

I'm reading two books on the set of (the ABS-CBN soap opera) "Bituing Walang Ningning." One is "The Power of a Praying Woman" by Stormie Omartian and the other is "On Beauty" by Zadie Smith. Omartian's book is a gift from Kris Aquino. It's her way of "paying forward" because she received the same gift from Lucy Torres. I bring it to the set so I can breeze through it from one chapter to another. I find it comforting. It's about how powerful prayer can be and how you should pray not only for others but also for yourself. I read about Smith's book in Oprah Winfrey's O magazine, which had given it a rave review. It's very witty—something I need on the set because most of my scenes are heavy drama."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

MEL Tiangco – Eric Pineda

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Cinema	No.	Film
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	2	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	3	I WANNA BE HAPPY
	4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	3 THX	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	INITIAL D
	5	UNITED 93
	6	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	7	LOVEWRECKED
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	SUPERMAN RETURNS GUARANTEED SEATS
	2 THX	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS
	3	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST GUARANTEED SEATS
	5	LOVEWRECKED GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	4	LOVEWRECKED
	5	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	2	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	3	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	4	SEE NO EVIL
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST
	2	I WANNA BE HAPPY
	3	INITIAL D
	4	SUPERMAN RETURNS
	5	PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST

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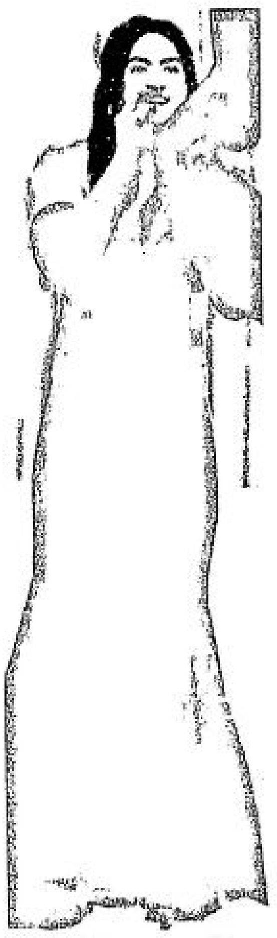
Who dressed up Kapuso stars for 'Fantastic 56'?

SHOW STOPPE

FOR THOSE who caught GMA 7's "Fantastic 56" special presented at the World Trade Center on Sunday and wondered who dressed up the network's fabulous gals and guys, here's the list—and another peek at the standouts.


WENDELL Ramos – Eric Pineda

PAOLO Ballesteros - Eric Pineda

JOEY De Leon – Eric Pineda

ANTONIO Aquitania – Eric Pineda

KEEMPEE De Leon – Eric Pineda

Rock & jeans

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When Levi's Philippines launched a campaign for its 501 series via a concert tour in Manila, Baguio, Cebu and Davao, it attracted some of the best rock bands in the country because of its theme, "Stay True."

For Pupil front man Ely Buendia, the theme meant: "Don't compromise your integrity."

For Callalily vocalist Kean: "I don't care that you don't care."

Niles of Anggulo: "Fix your life and own it."

Urbandub guitarist Chuck: "Follow your heart."

But they said it best in song. The other groups that turned up—in their 501s, of course—for the concert series were: Sugarfree, Imago, 6 Cyclemind, Manaya, Spongecola, Up Dharma Down, Tabularasa, Mackina, Go Larry Go, Faspitch, Powerspoonz, Smooth Friction, Sheila and the Insects, Jr. Kilat, Messed Up, 2nd Squad and Rain Band.

501
STAY TRUE
CONCERT TOUR

FROM LEFT: Ely Buendia, Aia of Imago and Urbandub for the Levi's 501 concert tour series

Nic wears mom Lea's gown

From page A3-1

'Abu' Ligaya says she kept the dress, cap and shoes for 35 years

ninangs—Queenie, sister of (INQUIRER society columnist) Maurice Arcache."

The dress is made of organza, with yellow scallop embroidery.

"When Lea was baptized, a psychic-friend predicted that she would become Miss Philippines in 1989," Ligaya added. "Instead, she became 'Miss Saigon.'"

There was no fortune-teller on Nic's big day but, judging from her godparents' smiles, she has a bright future ahead of her—indeed, one filled with "love and light" as her mom earlier described her.

"I'd like her to pursue her own dreams," Lea said. "As parents, Rob and I [will] raise her to be God-fearing, to be a good person with a good set of morals and values. Beyond that, it's all up to her."

GODPARENTS and mom fuss over sleeping star of the day. RYAN LIM

AT THE CHURCH, from left: Narciso Chan, Menchu Yulo, Gerald Salonga holding Nic, Steffie Inocentes, Lea, Rob and Chona Ampil.

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GALLERIA

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2 • THX
12.00 3:10 6:20 9:30
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10:30 1:40 4:50 8.00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:10 5:20 8:30
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00
7 INITIAL D
2:15 4:45 7:15 9:45
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12.00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 LOVE WRECKED
1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
10 BATAS MILITAR
12 40 3:00 5 20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 INITIAL D
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:20 3.15 6:10 9.05
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12:30 3:35 6:40 9:50
6 BATAS MILITAR
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11 20 2:15 5:10 8:05

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 LOVE WRECKED
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3:00 6.00 9.00
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12::00 3:00 6:00 9:00
5 INITIAL D
11 05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
6 BATAS MILITAR
1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9:00
7 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00
8 I WANNA BE HAPPY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES [illegible]/935-3229-30

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 INITIAL D

CITISQUARE MALABON [illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER [illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LOVE WRECKED

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SEE NO EVIL
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 LAKE HOUSE
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

DASMARINAS [illegible]

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 I WANNA BE HAPPY

ANGELES [illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 I WANNA BE HAPPY
3 BATAS MILITAR
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

IMUS [illegible]

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

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1 TAKE THE LEAD
2 BATAS MILITAR
3 I WANNA BE HAPPY
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2

BACOLOD [illegible]

1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 SEE NO EVIL

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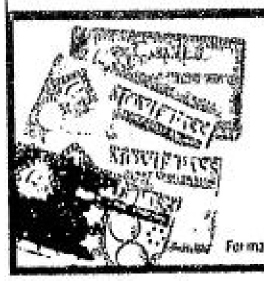
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2
2 THE NUN
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 LAKE HOUSE



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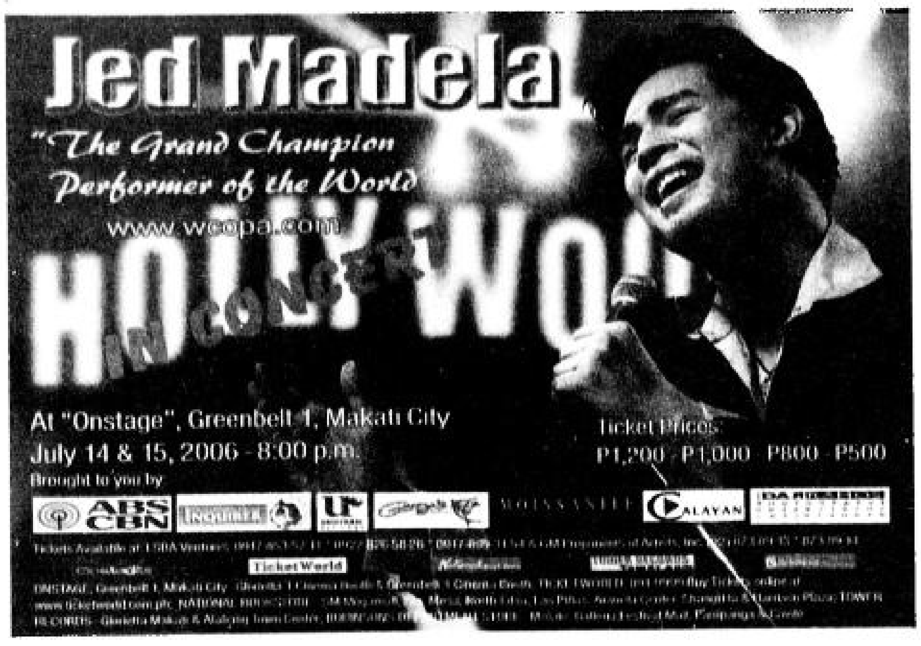
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Erik Santos' prize

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Edwin Bacasmas

HOME BODY

STAR IN A Million" champion Erik Santos traded the house-and-lot he won from the talent search for a two-level condominium unit in Mandaluyong City.

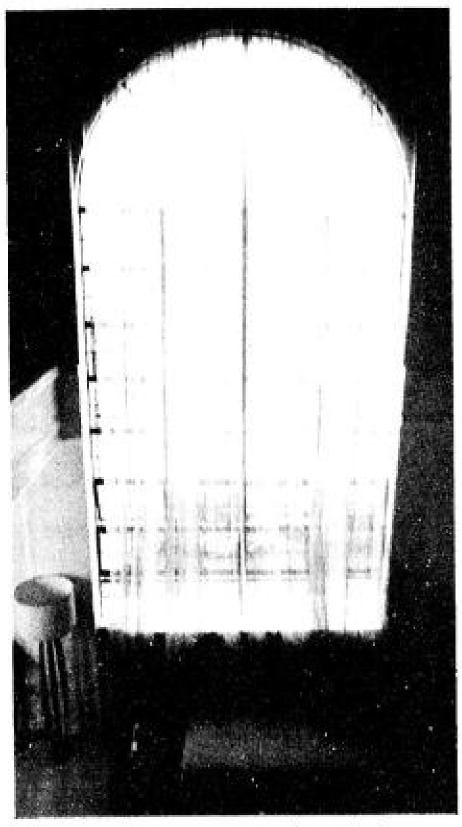
But the singer says he has never stayed there and is seriously considering renting it out. And why not? Erik is now living contentedly in this three-story, 300-sq. m. home in Novaliches, Quezon City.

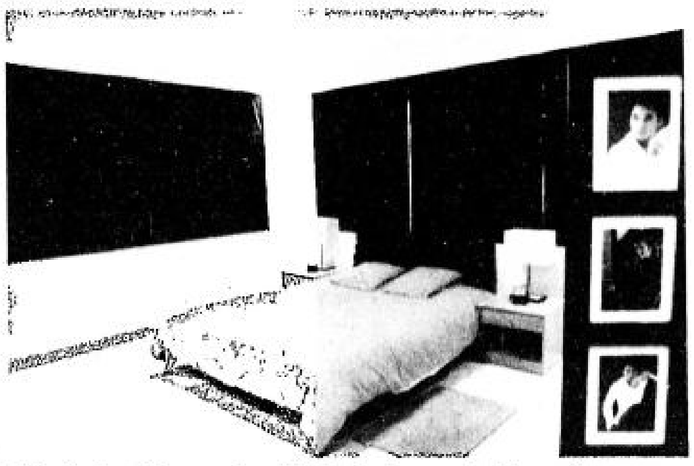
Straight from their old home in Malabon, which was often flooded, the Santoses moved into this one in May 2005.

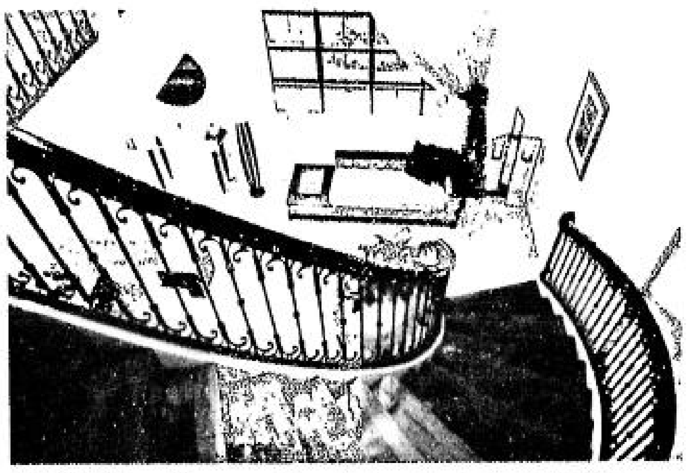
Erik hired interior designer Daron Jasme "to make some areas [of the house] 'very Erik'." He specified earthy tones and neutral hues in the living and dining areas, yellow and white colors for the façade.

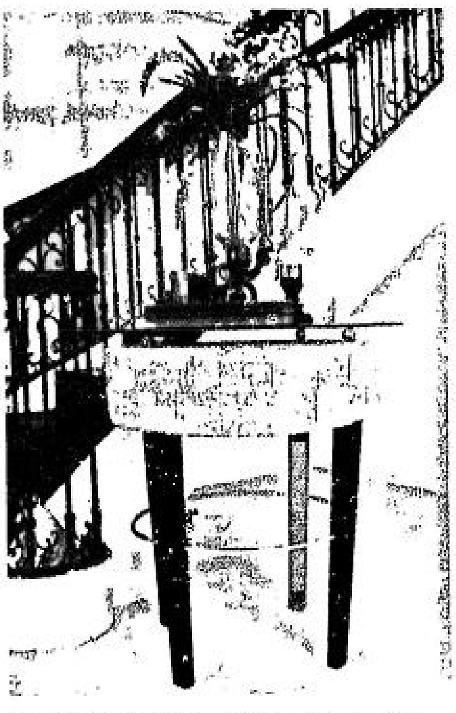
His next "project" is to complete his resthouse, now under construction in Bulacan.

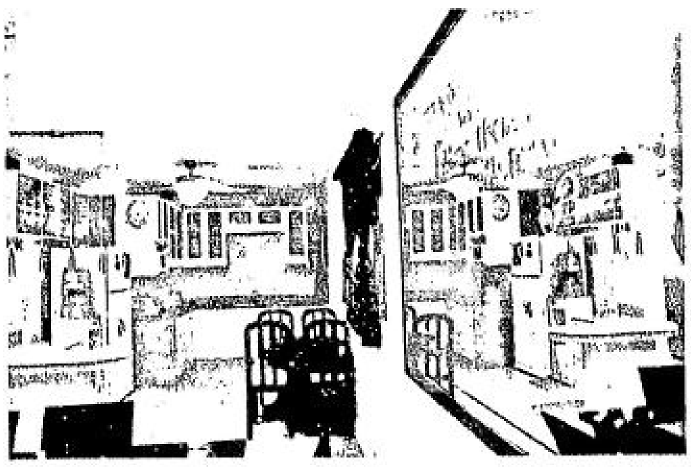
TRANSPARENT vases in different sizes brighten up the ledge on the second-floor landing. The glass-etched mirror is a gift from a family friend.


SHEER drapes on imposing glass window allow natural light in.


ALL shades of blue are found in the bedroom—sky blue walls, aqua blue sheets and pillow cases. The Roman blinds are in navy blue; the area rug, in baby blue. The wooden divider (with photographs) is a gift from a fan.


THE VIEW from the second floor. Beige-colored ottoman at the staircase landing was especially made for Erik. Circular mirror with wood accent is a gift from a female friend.


COFFEE table at the foot of the sprawling staircase was bought by members of Erik's US-based fans club. The club president sent the money to the designer, who found the piece to match another in the living room.


HUGE mirror lords it over the dining area, creating an illusion of space. It is one of only two pieces of furniture transported from the old family house in Malabon. "My mom said it's memorable to her," the singer says.

AN ASSORTMENT of shade- and water-loving plants fill the garden. Erik says this was financed with the money he earned from CD sales and his last US concert.

WHEN Erik was younger, he dreamt of telling his friends who would come to visit, "Just look for the yellow house." Now, he muses, "This is a dream come true."

TWO framed paintings of the G-clef is "very Erik" because "I'm a music lover." He says the console table (left) filled with pictures of family members means "the owner of the house is family-oriented." The five-seater sectional sofa upholstered in beige fabric is about to be replaced by a more expensive black leather couch.

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- RP exports weighed down by rising rates abroad /B2

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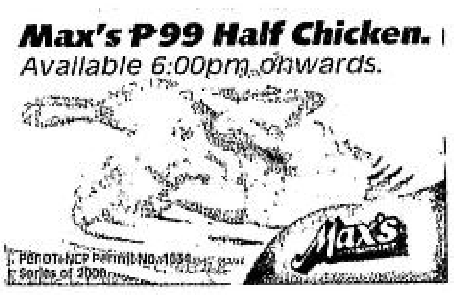

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Shares close 1.34% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 1.34 PERCENT higher on bargain-hunting ahead of the release of what are expected to be solid corporate quarterly results, dealers said.

SHARES/ B2

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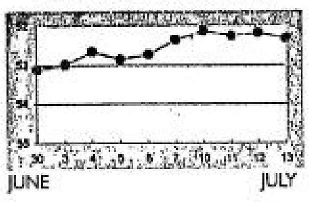
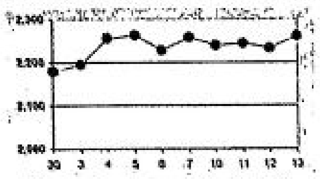


STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B4)

To settle part, not all, of state's arrears

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER OVER A DECADE, THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW LOOKING at options to deal with its unpaid premiums to the Government Service and Insurance System estimated to reach P14 billion.

According to a ranking official, the government still has no wish to fully settle its arrears to the GSIS for it remains skeptical over the accuracy of the state-owned pension fund's claims.

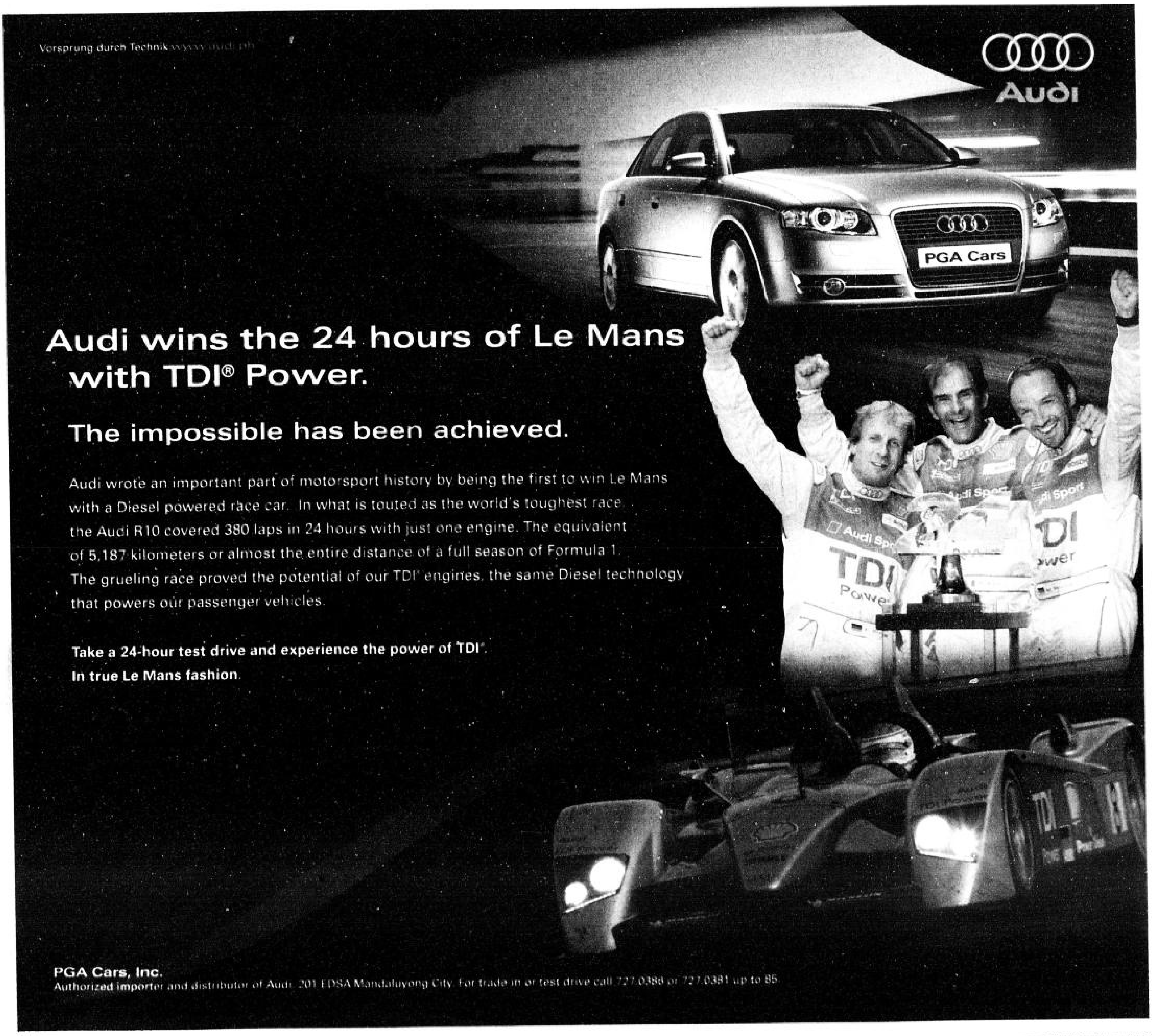
As a result, the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee during a recent meeting decided to hire a financial expert to conduct an actuarial study to determine the extent of the government's arrears to the GSIS, the government source said.

In 2001, the Department of Budget and Management and Bureau of Treasury signed a memorandum of agreement with the GSIS to settle unpaid premiums from 1992 to 1997.

Under the MOA, the three agencies considered the principal of P7.14 billion, and speci-

SKEPTICAL/ B2

CRUZ



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RP exports weighed down by rising rates abroad

Global demand expected to decline in second half

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DOUBLE-DIGIT RISE OF THE PREVIOUS months may not be enough to buoy up the country's exports, which the government expects to settle with a growth rate of only between 6 to 8 percent for the full year due to rising interest rates abroad.

"There may be lack of (consumer) confidence as we move toward the second semester due to rising interest rates and the need for realignment of currencies," according to economist Bernardo Villegas during the University of Asia & the Pacific's mid-year economic briefing yesterday.

Rising interest rates, which make borrowings costlier, normally result in cuts in investment spending by firms and therefore restrain income growth in the short run.

The move of the US Federal Reserve to implement successive hikes in interest rates has forced central banks in some emerging economies to increase their own interest rates as well, in an effort to prevent their currencies from sharply depreciating.

A rise in US interest rate makes bonds issued by emerging economies less attractive. Without matching the hike, developing economies are faced with threats of capital flight, or shift of bond investments to the United States which, in turn, could result in weakening of currencies.

Although rising interest rates have so far not yet made an impact on exports, Villegas said the effects could be seen in the second half.

For the first six months of the year, Philippine merchandise exports already reached $18.687 billion, 16-percent higher than that of the same period last year.

The robust growth was attributed largely to the increasing demand for electronics, such as cellular phones, IPods and laptop computers. Electronics is the Philippines' major export product, accounting for about 60 percent of export earnings in June.

The strong export performance in the first half led government economic managers to believe that the country could exceed the official 8-percent export growth target for 2006 and even attain a growth rate of anywhere between 10 and 12 percent.

The National Economic and Development Authority earlier said the government was so far not inclined to change the official 8-percent export growth target. But this was only because changing macroeconomic targets is not a good habit for governments, the Neda said.

But Villegas said the government's projection of an export growth of between 10 to 12 percent might be too optimistic. He said the projection did not yet take into account the adverse effects of rising interest rates abroad.

Net portfolio inflows hit $106.3 million in June

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES CHALKED UP $106.3 MILlion in net portfolio inflows in June, swamping the $31.6 million registered a year ago, despite uncertainties over rising US interest rates during the period.

"This development indicated continued positive investor sentiment owing to favorable economic reports such as the 5.5 percent gross domestic product in the first quarter, the lower than expected inflation rate of 6.9 percent in May, and the consecutive budget surpluses in April and May," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said on Thursday.

"The positive sentiment overshadowed concerns over further interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve Board to stem inflation, which may cause global economic growth to slow and make assets in emerging markets such as the Philippines less attractive to investors."

Foreign portfolio investments refer to inflows to local equities and debt paper, tagged as "hot money" due to their volatile nature.

During the first semester, foreign inflows of hot money had reached $773.6 million, 70 percent of which went to telecommunications, property, banking, as well as food, beverage and tobacco.

The other investments were in peso-denominated securities, money market instruments and peso bank deposits.

The investments during the first semester, albeit smaller than the $1.9 billion inflows in the same period last year, were funded with foreign exchange remitted through banks and converted into pesos.

About 80 percent of the hot money inflows in the first semester came from Singapore, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Her Excellency
a Macapagal Arroyo
to the

FOR SERVICES RENDERED

Dr. James G. Dy of the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association Inc., owner and operator of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center, received the "Pagkilala sa Paglilingkod" award from President Macapagal-Arroyo for rendering invaluable service to the people through its free health services and other charity projects. Looking on are Secretary Alberto Romulo and Dr. Lucio Tan.

Shares close . . .

From page B1

The advance was also boosted by strong interest in mining stocks as metals prices continued higher, allowing investors to look past a weak Wall Street performance overnight, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 29.89 points to the day's high of 2,261.57 after touching a low of 2,230.34. Volume was 443.16 million shares worth P1.21 billion ($23.1 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 14.93 points to 1,403.91.

Gainers beat losers 46 to 28, with 49 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 52.208 to the dollar. *AFP*

Skeptical gov't to study ₱14-B . . .

From page B1

fied that the interest of P6.28 billion claimed by the GSIS would be subject to further negotiation.

But even at that time, the DBM was uncertain about the accuracy of the pension fund's estimates, which was said to reach P13.42 billion in total receivables. The national government then decided to only pay the principal amount.

In any case, the MOA of 2001 did not push through as the government's fiscal deficit began to balloon. To date, the GSIS' claims have increased to P14 billion.

Now that the government has made significant progress in fiscal consolidation, it is willing to revisit the GSIS arrearage, once it confirms its exact liabilities.

During the DBCC meeting, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the GSIS must recalculate the premiums for life and retirement of permanent employees in various national government agencies, the source said.

"Cruz expressed concern that the agreement in 2001 did not include ... recalculation of the premiums," the DBCC source said.

The BTr chief argued that the first step should be to do the actuarial computation and check the extent of the government's debts to the GSIS, given that the pension fund requested lump-sum gratuity payments.

During the same meeting, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo also said that "the numbers should have, in fact, been reviewed first and ascertained by an acturial study before the 2001 MOA was signed in the first place," the source said.

The source reported that the DBM is set to write to the GSIS to get its cooperation.

Sluggish reforms in the Philippine pension fund system have been causing widespread concern, given the vulnerabilities of both the GSIS and Social Security System.

In an earlier country report, the World Bank warned about the GSIS' portfolio being increasingly concentrated in lending to its members. The institution said that this practice made the fund "susceptible to adverse developments which could affect its returns and long-term sustainability."

The WB also noted the alarm bells sounded by the GSIS itself: It said that if the social insurance premiums owed by various government agencies were not collected soon, the pension fund could find its financial position untenable.

With the GSIS now claiming that the national government owes it P14 billion in receivables, the pension fund has set its sights on a 10,000-hectare government property in Clark, Pampanga, as payment for the debt.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 11, 2006	Last Week July 4, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.41139	1.41227
Managed Fund - Peso	1.54689	1.55048
Growth Fund - Peso	1.21445	1.22311
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2304	1.2251

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Security Printing of the following Negotiable Instruments:**

Security Check	Quantity	Approved Budget* Source of Fund: DBP Fund	Cost of Bid Documents
Commercial Check	27,000 booklets	P1,944,000.00	P 500.00
Personal Check	22,000 booklets	P 792,000.00	P 500.00
Manager's Check	2,500 booklets	P 245,000.00	P 500.00
Modified Disbursement Scheme (MDS)	18,000 booklets	P1,125,000.00	P 500.00
PVAO Pension Check (Continuous Form)	450,000 pieces	P 517,500.00	P 500.00
DECS Checks (Continuous Form)	1,608,322 pieces	P 1,929,986.40	P 500.00

*Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening

Mode of Delivery/Payment: Staggered Delivery/Progressive Billing
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	July 25, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:00 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of August 8, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	August 8, 2006 (Tuesday) at 10:30 a.m.	6th/Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines and must have been authorized to engage in the **Security Checks Printing business for at least three (3) years. Security Check Printer should present sample check items with MICR encoding duly tested and certified to have passed the Philippine Clearing House Corporation (PCHC) MICR reader sorter.** Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a **non-refundable fee depending on the total amount of the approved budget of the contract of a particular item/s the prospective bidder intends to bid. Only those who purchased the bid documents will be allowed to attend the pre-bidding conference on July 25, 2006.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702/8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—July 7 & 14, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to re-bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Repair / Improvement of Capitol Building
Location : Capitol Compound, Cebu City
Brief Description :Repair and Improvement works for the Capitol Main Building
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,957,874.45
Contract Duration : 100 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass / fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 14 - 20, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 14 - 20, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 20, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 21, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	July 21 - 24, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	July 26, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	August 7, 2006

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P 50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 253-3105, (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications, only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO T. HABIN
Chairman

(PDI - July 14 & 20, 2006)

The shrinking Sorianos

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LIKE ANY CEO/PRESIDENT, ANDRES SORIano III was extolling the growth strategy of his family's listed A. Soriano Corp. during the April 26 shareholders' meeting at the Peninsula:

The 54-year-old, twice-divorced Spanish-American cited Anscor's investments, in particular ICTSI and SPI Technologies, as a "balanced mix of viable investment choices that attempt to ensure steady and increasing shareholder returns and future potential."

A week later, Soriano surprised shareholders when Anscor announced it had sold off its entire ICTSI shareholdings, followed by this week's sale—but still undisclosed by Anscor—of its remaining 8-percent stake in SPI.

More than half of the P5.9-billion proceeds from the ICTSI sale had already been allocated as cash dividend to the Sorianos and the rest of the shareholders, including taipan John Gokongwei.

The balance, including Anscor's 8 percent share in the $135.34-million SPI sale, is presumably reserved for future investments.

With the twin divestments, Anscor is left with only one major operating venture, the 59-percent-owned Phelps Dodge, the country's largest copper wire manufacturer, which contributed a little over P65 million out of Anscor's 2005 net income of P340 million.

ICTSI, on the other hand, contributed P66 million to the Anscor income in the same year.

Still, even prior to the latest divestments, Anscor in 2005 posted only a sub-market 8 percent return on its various investments, even though 16 percent of them are placed in marketable equity securities and foreign-denominated bonds.

Contrast present-day Anscor with the 1951 Anscor, when it was being run by its swashbuckling Falangist founder, MacArthur aide Col. Andres Soriano of the Marking's Guerrillas fame.

Soriano, then at 53, a year younger than his namesake grandson, was described by Time magazine as "King of the Islands," who parlayed the family's San Miguel Brewery's fortunes into mines, dairies, factories, a newspaper and radio station, Philippine Airlines, Philip Morris distributorship, the largest Coca-Cola franchise, five insurance agency distributorship, a Kansas City brewery (the maker of Lone Star and Colt .45, now a Lucio Tan franchise), gold mines in the then British East Africa and a development company in Spain.

Time reported: "His holdings stretch so far and wide that a top executive says, 'I haven't been able to memorize even the names of all the companies yet.'"

According to people who claim to be his friends, ASIII has lost the drive ever since he was ousted from San Miguel during the early Estrada months.

His 2004 divorce from his Filipina wife, Victoria Hagedorn, has also left him with no immediate family moorings in the country, especially since his children, two girls and one boy, are based in New York.

Even Soriano business ally Enrique Razon Jr. could not offer any road map for Anscor, saying he had tendered his resignation from the Anscor board after the Anscor divestment from Razon's ICTSI.

This early, the fourth generation Andres Soriano, or Shifty, as the lone boy of ASIII is nicknamed, appears not inclined to ever work for the family business.

A certified emergency medical technician, the 20-year-old Shifty is off to Ireland this weekend to join the Cork Week regatta, bringing his father's 82-foot Swan yacht and a crew of 26.

The father, in the meantime, has left again for Spain, for yet another affair of the heart.

Heard through the grapevine

IT LOOKS like the Carlos J. Valdes inheritance fight is in for a tough, hopefully not vicious, legal battle.

Jose Pidal lawyer Antonio Zulueta has been retained by the eighth (not youngest) child in his court case against the eldest brother.

After the Baguio case, the six-hectare Bagac (not Balanga), Bataan campus of De La Salle, which was "donated" by the ailing father despite being part of the late mother's estate, is next to be questioned.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Viability of hybrid rice plan doubted

AN INTERNATIONAL NON GOVERNMENT organization has expressed concern over the possible waste of billions of pesos earmarked for the country's hybrid rice program following reports that the variety has not increased farm yields.

In a paper, the Southeast Asian Regional Institute for Community Empowerment (SeaRice) said some P1.1 billion was released by the government in 2004 to fund the rice and corn program of the Department of Agriculture. Of the amount, P551 million went to the hybrid rice commercialization program (HRCP).

Some P1.6 billion was earmarked for this year, while P2.5 billion is eyed for 2007.

The HRCP was patterned after the successful hybrid rice program in China. SeaRice, however, said the hybrid rice varieties used under the local program "had not shown significant and consistent yield advantage over inbred rice varieties".

It said that in a case study on the use of the variety in four provinces in the country, the seed performed better than traditional varieties in only one province. It performed poorer than the traditional varieties in Isabela and Iloilo, which are major rice producing areas, it said.

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The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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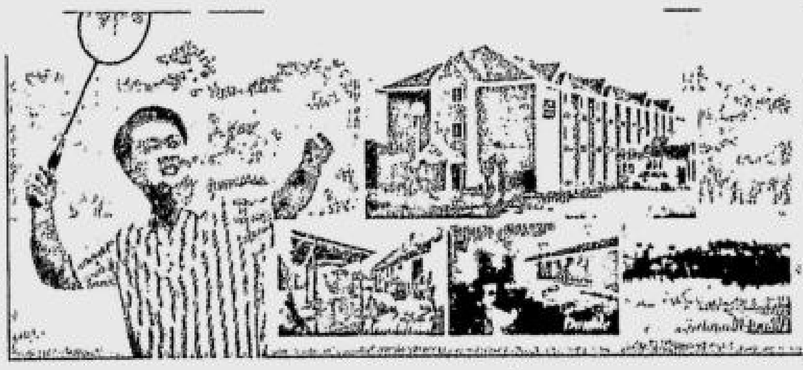

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Citibank investing P1B to expand local savings bank

To spend more to corner big chunk of mass market

By Doris C. Dumlao

AMERICAN BANKING GIANT Citibank N.A. has invested P1 billion in its local operations to beef up its 36-branch subsidiary, Citibank Savings.

The bank said it was keen on spending more for this new banking platform to make significant inroads into the mass market in the country.

"That investment includes capital for the premises and technology. It also covers recruitment and training, and building of a 100-people sales force. The reality is we really want to grow this business so we want to keep investing," Mark Jones, country business manager for Citibank global consumer group and chair of Citibank Savings, told reporters in a press briefing yesterday.

"We're going to spend a lot of money in this business in the next three to five years so I won't be surprised to see that amount (P1 billion) double," he added.

Citibank has just entered the thrift banking business through the acquisition of Insular Savings Bank at an undisclosed price in March last year. Banking sources earlier estimated the buyout deal at P1 billion.

Citibank also invested in the migration of its technology to Citibank platform to align it with global Citigroup standards, upgrade automated teller machines, strengthen its retail branch staffing and give intensive training to its people.

Citibank Savings president Jeffrey Choa said that with the banks' 36 branches, it could now tap a bigger market, particularly small and medium enterprises.

Recently, Citibank Savings launched Power Savings, an innovative savings account that offered as much as 5 percent interest rate without any maintaining balance. It also gives a high daily automated teller machine withdrawal limit and free ATM transactions.

"In just the first six months of the year, we have seen a 55-percent increase in our deposit base and we hope to keep this momentum," Choa said.

As the bank is not keen on offering trust and other fiduciary accounts, Citibank will rely more on deposit generation as its funding source.

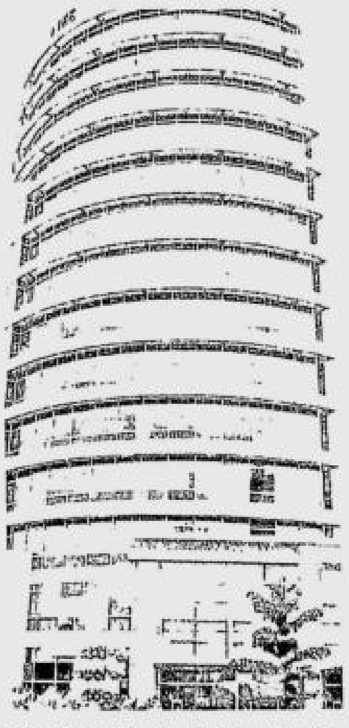
The officials said Citibank Savings was also keen on building its lending and advisory side of the business, which would become the cash cow over the long run while keeping deposit products more affordable.

While Citibank Savings waived the minimum maintenance fees, Jones said the Citibank franchise would naturally attract the top five million to seven million of the 15 million bank account holders in the country.

The vision is to be the bank of choice among professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried individuals earning as low as P10,000 to P20,000 a month.

"We are making this investment because our branches will be used for advice, mainly mortgage and investment or insurance advice—and that's how banks across the globe are making money. We don't want to own a branch where we're making money only from the low maintenance accounts," Jones said.

Of Citibank Saving's 36 branches, 23 are in Metro Manila, seven in Luzon provinces and six in the Visayas and Mindanao. It will open six more branches soon.



CITIBANK Savings' vision is to be the bank of choice among professionals, entrepreneurs and salaried individuals—the market untouched by its parent firm.

Del Monte now fully owns China's Abpak

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PINEAPPLE PRODUCTS PRODUCER DEL Monte Pacific Ltd. has acquired full ownership of Abpak Co. Ltd., owner of a popular fruit juice maker in China, with the recent purchase of an additional 11-percent stake in the company.

Del Monte, which is jointly owned by San Miguel Corp. and the Campos Group, said in a disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore that it bought the 11 percent Abpak stake from its founder, Paul Leo Rasch, for $1.3 million.

Abpak owns 100-percent of China-based Great Lakes Fresh Foods and Juice Co. Ltd., a leading player in the fruit juice market in China.

Del Monte said in July that it had bought 89 percent of Abpak for $6.3 million. Of the amount, $4.3 million was used to acquire shares held by other Abpak shareholders and $2 million was earmarked for the subscription of new shares in the company's capital.

At the time of Del Monte purchased the 89 percent, the company committed to make an offer for the remaining 11 percent at the same price per share paid to ex-Abpak shareholders plus an accrued annual interest of 3.3 percent.

This additional acquisition will be financed entirely by Del Monte's internal cash reserves and is expected to be completed on July 17.

Abpak will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of the DMPL Group.

Although Rasch will no longer be a shareholder, he will remain president of Great Lakes.

$4-M Subaru Center opened

By Ronnel W. Domingo

JAPANESE AUTO MAKER FUJI HEAVY Industries Ltd., known for the Subaru brand, yesterday opened its first Philippine dealership and service facility along Edsa in Greenhills, San Juan.

More than two decades after entering the Southeast Asian market by putting up business in Singapore, FHI finally established its presence in the Philippines through Motor Image Enterprises Pte Ltd.—the exclusive distributor of Subaru in Asia—and its local unit Motor Image Pilipinas Inc. or Mipi.

Glenn Tan, Motor Image group chief executive, said at the sidelines of the launch that the firm had laid out some $4 million to build Subaru Center, a five-level facility at the so-called automotive row at the south bound side of Edsa.

"We want to establish Subaru in the Philippines as a performance brand and a premium Japanese brand to be positioned against BMW and Audi," said Tan, who is based in Singapore.

The official said Mipi would raise in the next six months awareness of the brand through event-based programs.

"We are looking at putting up three or four more dealerships within the next year with one of these to be in Makati," Tan said.

He explained that the next dealer outlets would be partnerships with local investors "because our expertise is in building the brand and we want to focus on that."

Tan said Subaru's debut involved a line of five models and variants with another three to be launched in September or October.

The first five are the 3-liter Outback crossover vehicle, 2.5-liter Impreza WRX, 2-liter and 2.5 liter Forester SUVs and the 2-liter Legacy executive sedan.

The other three vehicles would include the Impreza WRX STI, 3-liter Legacy and the Legacy wagon.

Tan said Subaru's main seller was the Forester SUVs with prices at about P1.3 million.

Prices of the Outback and the Legacy hover at about P2.2 million and P1.5 million, respectively.

Tan said Mipi expects to be able to sell some 150 units in the next six months.

RP gets $20-M soft loan from US for rice imports

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES WILL RECEIVE $20-MILlion soft loan from the United States government which will be used to partly finance the country's rice importation requirement for the year.

The loan will be provided through the US Public Law 480 (PL480) program, which requires that the Philippines use the loan to buy approximately 69,000 metric tons of rice produced in the United States.

The Philippines, whose agriculture sector accounts for about a fifth of the total economic output, has been receiving an average of $20 million a year since 1997 from the PL480 program of the United States. The loans were intended for the purchase of agricultural commodities from the US.

The program has some 130 countries in its list of beneficiaries. The PL480 loan, which bears an annual interest of 1 percent, is payable in 30 years.

The signing of the deal for this year's $20-million loan will be held today at the University of the Philippines campus in Los Baños, Laguna.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves will sign the loan in behalf of the Philippine government, while US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney will sign in behalf of the US government.

The Department of Finance said in a statement that the rice to be purchased would be sold to the private sector, and proceeds from which would be used for agricultural programs.

The 69,000 metric tons of rice to be imported under the PL480 program would help complete the Philippines total rice importation requirement of 1.87 million metric tons this year.

The importation will be done by the National Food Authority (NFA), which is tasked with ensuring the security of rice supply in the country.

Rice importation under PL480 program came amid proposals from certain government officials seeking the liberalization of rice importation through the lifting of quantitative restrictions imposed on importers.

Importers are subject to a quota and tariff restriction to protect local farmers and the agriculture sector. For the full year of 2006, the quota for private sector importation of rice is 350,000 metric tons. Imports are also slapped a 50-percent duty.

Mirant prepares for its sale, eyes smooth transition

By Abigail L. Ho

MIRANT PHILIPPINES CORP. HAS COMMITted to continue normal operations, even while preparing to be auctioned off to a new owner.

"Mirant Philippines will continue to operate normally and will remain committed to their employees and the communities they serve," Mirant Philippines chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste Jr. said in a statement yesterday.

"We look forward to a smooth and orderly transition, in close coordination with the relevant government agencies, until after our auction process is completed. Our Philippine assets will continue to operate efficiently and deliver on commitments to the government, our clients and our stakeholders," he added.

Atlanta-based Mirant Corp. recently announced that it would be divesting its interest in the Philippines in line with plans to focus on its home business.

Mirant Philippines owns and operates the 1,200-megawatt (MW) Sual and the 735-MW Pagbilao coal-fired power plants in Pangasinan and Quezon, respectively. It also holds a 20-percent stake in the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Its net ownership interest in those three generating facilities come up to 2,203 MW.

Following the American firm's announcement, a well-placed source revealed that several foreign firms, including AIG; OneEnergy Ltd., a 50-50 joint venture between Hong Kong's CLP Holdings Ltd. and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp.; Korea Electric Power Corp.; Tokyo Electric Power Co., and Kyushu Electric Power Co. Inc., had already expressed interest in participating in the auction.

Cebuana Lhuillier ties up with TMT

CEBUANA LHUILLIER SERVICES CORP. HAS inked an agreement with money transfer giant Travelex Money Transfer Limited (TMT) to offer international remittance services to Filipinos overseas and at home.

Under this cooperation, Filipino customers can receive and send their cash remittances through Cebuana Lhuillier outlets even during Sundays and public holidays. TMT is looking at a number of options for the Filipino market including cash transactions, receiving the remittance in cash and crediting it to the bank account of the beneficiary or home delivery services.

Philippe André Lhuillier said Cebuana has opened 400 branches out of its 800 branches to serve TMT initially.

TMT chief executive officer Mohit Davar said his company was hoping to get a large chunk of the remittance market in the Philippines.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 13, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	972,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	51.5	48.5	51	1,947,200
China Banking Corp.	870	870	860	865	1,100
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export And Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.38	0.36	0.38	6,880,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	72.5	74	72.5	74	124,000
International Exch. Bank	42	42	42	42	1,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	35	35.5	1,008,400
Philippine National Bank	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	10,400
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39	39	39	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	46	46	46	46	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	43	43	43	43	3,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com, Inc.	1.7	1.76	1.68	1.74	3,571,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	31	31	31	31	10,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	211	211	211	211	54,600
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2020	2020	2020	2020	430
Ivantage Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	974,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	257,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp	45	46	45	46	1,026,500
Manila Electric Co. A	14.5	15.25	14.5	15.25	64,900"
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24.25	24	24.25	538,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.9	5,470,000
Petron Corp.	3.85	3.95	3.85	3.95	3,175,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	1,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	28,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32.5	32	32	191,200
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	308,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	797,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	51,200
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71	71.5	213,100
Universal Robina Corp	19.25	20	19.25	20	55,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	920,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.48	1.5	252,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.6	4.55	4.6	83,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	53,000
CHEMICALS					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	50,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	402.5	412.5	402.5	410	525,470
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	242,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.74	1.82	1.74	1.82	811,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	6,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	650,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	3,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	862,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	195,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	70,000
Global Business Hldgs Inc	70	70	70	70	500
Keppel Holdings	1	1	1	1	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	1,000,000
Primo Media Holdings, Inc	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.115	0.115	600,000
SM Investments Corp.	212	214	212	213	163,570
South China Resources Inc	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	100,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.25	18,071,300
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	5,134,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	4,000,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	390,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	13,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.46	2,470,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	854,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	590,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.38	1.44	53,528,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.195	0.205	8,550,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.2	0.24	0.2	0.24	100,000
Polar Property Holdings	2	2	2	2	25,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	11	10.75	11	15,100
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.58	1.48	1.58	49,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.8	7.6	7.8	3,394,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	50,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	24,700
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	53,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	945	970	945	970	27,060
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.4	3.3	3.4	532,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1950	1965	1940	1945	96,040
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.031	0.032	31,200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	11,800
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.32	1.34	1.3	1.34	161,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.205	0.215	2,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	690,000
EDUCATION					
IPeople Inc	3	3	3	3	23,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	15,000
Paxys Inc	11	11	11	11	13,200
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.4	3.45	3.3	3.4	1,359,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	3.45	3.45	3.35	3.45	801,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	14,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.6	1,553,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	4,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	26,610,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	4,920,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.024	18,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	16,200,000
Omico Corp	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	132,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.1	4.15	4.05	4.1	3,277,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	3,989,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	2,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,930,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	10,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	210,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	41,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.22	194,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	54,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	212,400"
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	202,600

DISCLOSURES

PRIME Gaming Phils. Inc. said it repurchased 250,000 of the company's shares on July 11, consistent with the company's resolution to buy not more than 2.5 million of its own shares at a price not exceeding P25 per share.

***

JOLLIVILLE Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 16, 3 p.m. at the company's conference room, 4th floor 20 Lansbergh Place, Tomas Morato Ave. cor. Sct. Castor St. in Quezon City. Stockholders of record as of July 25 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

***

MANILA Bulletin Publishing Corp. has declared a stock dividend of 15 percent for stockholders of record as of Aug. 10, payable on Sept. 5.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

July 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787340	1.000000	52.1960
Japan	Yen	0.006817	0.008658	0.4519
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444138	1.834200	95.7379
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101253	0.128601	6.7125
Switzerland	Franc	0.638246	0.810636	42.3120
Canada	Dollar	0.694364	0.881912	46.0323
Singapore	Dollar	0.497372	0.631712	32.9728
Australia	Dollar	0.592163	0.752106	39.2569
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.088600	2.652731	138.4619
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209946	0.266652	13.9182
Brunei	Dollar	0.495806	0.629723	32.8690
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020785	0.026399	1.3779
Uae	Dirham	0.214371	0.272272	14.2115
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.270100	66.2941
Argentina	Peso	0.255464	0.324465	16.9358
Brazil	REAL	0.359910	0.457122	23.8599
Denmark	Kroner	0.134090	0.170308	8.8894
India	Rupee	0.017083	0.021697	1.1325
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215503	0.273710	14.2866
Mexico	New Peso	0.071220	0.090457	4.7215
New Zealand	Dollar	0.484070	0.614817	32.0910
Norway	Kroner	0.125663	0.159604	8.3307
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013061	0.016589	0.8659
South Africa	Rand	0.110523	0.140375	7.3270
Korea	Won	0.000830	0.001054	0.0550
Sweden	Kroner	0.108916	0.138334	7.2205
Syria	Pound	0.015167	0.019264	1.0055
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024255	0.030806	1.6079
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0243

Rice quotas, the UN, and WTO

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THIS TROUBLING NEWS REPORT APpeared last July 10: "The government plans to lift the quota restriction on rice imports by the private sector during the lean months of domestic production to help ensure steady supply."

We believe this plan goes against the principles of two international organizations: the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

Background

At present, if there is an anticipated rice shortage, the government gives a rice import quota. This fills up the shortage. It also helps ensure that there is no rice oversupply, which would depress rice prices and severely decrease farmers' incomes.

According to the minutes of a recent cabinet meeting, the Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs have been tasked to study the lifting of the rice quotas for immediate implementation. This endangers the livelihood of some three million rice farmers.

United Nations pillars

Last June 19, 2006, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan identified "the three pillars on which all the works of the United Nations must be based: peace and security, economic and social development, and human rights."

He explained: "These three are interlinked and mutually reinforcing and are the prerequisites for our collective well-being. No society can develop without peace and security. No state can be secure if its people are condemned to poverty without hope. And no nation shall be secure or prosperous for long, if the basic rights of its citizens are not protected."

It is a basic right of a Filipino rice farmer to earn a decent living. Today, most of our rice farmers already live below the poverty line.

Exposing the rice farmers to unlimited rice imports will endanger their human right to a decent livelihood.

This is unfair, specially since government did not provide them the promised agricultural infrastructure and support services necessary for them to compete globally.

To paraphrase Annan, these farmers will then be condemned to poverty without hope, deprived of economic and social development, and subject to increasing peace and security problems. Depriving rice farmers of their economic right may erase the gains hoped for by a military solution that is proving very costly to our nation.

WTO

The plan to eliminate rice import quotas also runs contrary to the spirit expressed by 110 developing country ministers in a joint statement issued last July 1 in Geneva.

I was able to witness the historic meeting of the G110 (110 underdeveloped and developing countries) at the Hong Kong WTO Ministerial Meeting last December 2005.

For the first time, they united to fight the rapid trade liberalization imposed by some developed countries.

They united in an even stronger way to announce their July 1 joint statement in Geneva.

On both occasions, DA Secretary Domingo Panganiban and Undersecretary Siegfredo Serrano took leadership roles.

Now, in our home turf, ill-advised liberalization in the form of lifting rice quotas is being pushed, not by developed countries, but by parts of our own government.

The Department of Finance and the Bureau of Customs are the two agencies identified to study the lifting of the rice quotas. DA is not even mentioned. For DA to succeed as a key WTO leader in the world stage and fail to protect our rice farmers here would indeed be tragic.

Our decision to lift rice quotas should be guided by the G110 July 1 joint statement: "Market opening in the developing countries must take into account their social and economic realities."

The Indonesian Minister added: "When you open and liberalize the market, it should not be in a way that has adverse effects to vulnerable groups."

Centro Saka position

It has been argued that the government proposal to lift rice quotas is irrational and ill-timed. This is specially so since the Philippines is now at the tail end of sensitive negotiations to maintain the rice quantitative restrictions (QR) at the WTO.

Omi Royandoyan, Centro Saka Executive Director said: "Lifting our rice QR, albeit temporarily, might give other countries the necessary ammunition to shoot down our bid to re-extend the import restriction on our basic staple food. This proposal has the potential of unraveling what we already gained in negotiations on rice QRs."

During the 2004 presidential elections, Centro Saka was part of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest farmer - fisherfolk coalition with 39 federations and organizations.

CS convinced Alyansa that keeping rice quotas should be one of six key recommendations to be submitted to the presidential candidates.

The Alyansa would publicize each candidate's position on these recommendations, which would then influence the agricultural vote.

At that time, the current administration's position was to maintain the rice quotas. It is hoped that the position today will still be the same. Otherwise, this would go against what was publicized in 2004, as well as violate the stated principles of both the UN and the WTO. *For more information, please call Riza Bernabe at 924 3767 or 929 6211.*

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
6th Flr SEC Bldg EDSA Greenhills Mandaluyong City
Fax No. 725-8508; 726-2264; 727-5103 Telefax: 727-2990
Website: http://www.sec.gov.ph

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 080
SERIES OF 2006

IN THE MATTER OF

AYALA CORPORATION

- Registrant -

Registration of Securities

x---x

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto which were filed for and on behalf of **Ayala Corporation**, the Commission resolved to render effective the same for the registration of the following shares, pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules.

Preferred Shares	30,000,000
Oversubscription Option	28,000,000
	58,000,000
Offer Price per Share	P100.00

Let a Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale be issued in favor of **Ayala Corporation** authorizing the sale of the aforementioned securities.

Let this Order be published at the expense of the corporation once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, July 5, 2006.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
JUSTINA F CALLANGAN
Director

Gov't urged to hasten plan to set up retirement hubs

RP seen generating $40B in revenue from industry

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO step up efforts to position the Philippines as a retirement hub for foreign senior citizens.

Bernardo Villegas, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the Philippine economy could potentially generate $40 billion in additional revenues over the next 10 years should the government immediately push through with the plan.

Villegas said the Philippines has great potential to develop a so-called retirement industry, given the country's service-oriented and relatively young labor force.

Under the plan to develop a retirement industry—an idea already floated by some government officials—retirement zones for senior citizens should be established.

The zones shall have facilities for health care and leisure, among others, he said.

Villegas said the government should be willing to grant fiscal incentives, such as duty-free importation of hospital equipment, for the successful operation of the zones.

The government should likewise allow the entry of foreign medical practitioners.

He noted that the Constitution does not allow foreign professionals like doctors to practice medicine in the Philippines, which poses a barrier to the development of the industry.

The Philippines, he said, could initially target retirees from Japan at least 65 years old.

These senior citizens, who can live about 20 years more, may opt to retire in the Philippines given that the cost of living here is much lower than in Japan, he said.

Eventually, Villegas said, the Philippines could tap the estimated 100 million senior citizens worldwide.

The economist said that aside from having substantial economic benefits, developing the retirement industry would help address the social problem of Filipinos leaving their families to work abroad.

"Filipino nurses might be encouraged to go home and work here," he said.

Send resumés instantly

JOB Market

Ayala

To all **Ayala Corporation Common Shareholders** who may be interested in subscribing to the Primary Offer of the Preferred Shares, please contact Jennifer Cruz of BPI Capital Corporation at 845-5599 or 845-5950.

PRIMARY OFFER	Ayala Corporation 30 Million Preferred Shares
OFFER PRICE	At par or P100.00 per share
MINIMUM INVESTMENT	500 shares or P50,000.00
DIVIDEND RATE	
July 21, 2006 to July 21, 2011	9.4578% p.a., payable quarterly
After July 21, 2011	The higher of 9.4578% p.a. or the 10-year FXTN yield on July 21, 2011
OPTIONAL REDEMPTION	Starting July 21, 2011 or on any dividend payment date thereafter
OFFER PERIOD	July 10 to 14, 2006
LISTING DATE	July 21, 2006
LISTING	Philippine Stock Exchange

Cebu Pac increases HK flights

By Riza Olchondra

CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. SAID YESTERDAY that it expanded the number of its daily flights to Hong Kong to respond to the clamor for more flights to the Asian hub.

The budget carrier now has three daily flights to the Chek Lap Kok International Airport for a total of 21 a week from 17.

The third flight leaves Manila at 7:25 p.m., and arrives in Hong Kong at 9:25 p.m.

The turnaround flight leaves Hong Kong at 10:10 p.m., arriving in Manila at 12:10 a.m.

Cebu Pacific's fares for the Manila–Hong Kong route starts at P1,999 one way, excluding surcharges and travel taxes.

Cebu Pacific said that it increased the frequency of flights to Hong Kong in response to steadily increasing demand after the introduction of its 'Go' fares to Hong Kong in January this year.

The airline of the Gokongwei group of companies used to fly to Singapore but it scrapped the flight due to the lack of passengers.

Cebu Pacific, however, plans to revive the flight by August and perhaps mount a flight to Japan by September.

Study details firms' woes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENTREPRENEURS STILL RELY primarily on their own money to develop their business, according to a professor of the Asian Institute of Management.

Eduardo A. Morato Jr., a former dean of the AIM, said this was one of the major findings of a study he conducted covering 180 entrepreneurs from four high-growth areas and two low-growth areas in the country.

Morato said entrepreneurs rely on their own resources because there was "very limited" equity or venture financing in the country.

Morato cited a related study of the International Labor Organization to the Rural Economic Enterprises and Development, which showed that 80 percent of 1,341 respondent-entrepreneurs claimed they obtained their financing from personal savings.

The ILO study also showed that of the financing that came from loans, 29 percent came from relatives, 41 percent from loan sharks, 6 percent from banks, 6 percent from cooperatives and 21 percent from formal sources like lending investors.

Morato said advocates of entrepreneurship, as well as public development agencies, should endeavor to design, encourage and promote equity financing apart from traditional loan financing schemes.

"There are successful equity financing models in other countries which could be replicated in the Philippines," he said.

Morato presented the findings of his study during the three-day International Workshop on Social Entrepreneurship in Asia held at the AIM last week.

Morato defined social entrepreneurs as those who help budding entrepreneurs improve their productivity, profitability and professionalism.

Republic of the Philippines
METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM
CORPORATE OFFICE
4th Floor, Administration Building, MWSS Complex
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105 Philippines
Tel. Nos. +63(+2) 922-3757; 922-2969 Fax No. +63(+2) 921-2887

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as Project Sponsor, is hereby inviting prospective challengers / bidders to submit their Letter of Intent expressing interest for the "Swiss Challenge" of the proposal to Finance, Design, Construct, Operate and Maintain the 18.9 kms. North Luzon East Expressway (NLEE), Stage 1, Segments 1 & 2 "La Mesa Parkways" (La Mesa at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City-San Jose del Monte, Norzagaray, Bulacan), using the Water Sensitive Urban Tollroad Technology, to include the catchments, swale filtration, production, storage and distribution of raw water, submitted by the Ausphil Tollways Corporation, the original proponent of the project through the Unsolicited mode of the Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) Scheme.

The proposed bidding shall be conducted and facilitated together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), as Co-Sponsor and Implementing Agency, and governed by the BOT Law (RA No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and revised.

Submission of the Letter of Intent shall not be later than 17 July 2006 and addressed to:

The Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Ground Floor, Engineering Building
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. No. 922-25-68 / 928-56-91

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI - July 7 & 14, 2006)

SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City
Tel. No. (055) 2098-211

INVITATION TO BID

July 7, 2006

The SAMAR I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (SAMELCO I) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following:

1. Supply of labor for the construction of its expansion projects.
2. Supply and delivery of the various electrical hardwares and equipment for line construction, operation and maintenance
3. Supply and delivery steel poles, anchor logs (wood) and crossarms

Interested eligible bidders may obtain furhter information and bidding documents upon payment of non-refundabe amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) in the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday).

SAMELCO I Headquarters
Brgy. Carayman, Calbayog City

Interested bidders who are not yet accredited must submit the following requirements to be eligible for bidding:

1. **Company Profile**
2. **List of Clients served**

For purposes of clarification and details of the items due for bidding a pre-bid conference will be held at 10:30 a.m. on July 20, 2006 at the address above.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 2:00 p.m. on July 21, 2006 accompanied by bidder's bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the bid price. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder or bidder's representative at the address above at 2.00 p.m. on July 21, 2006.

The Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 13, 14 & 15, 2006)

Messages:

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Greetings to the officers and employees of **The Real Bank** on the occasion of your *30th Anniversary.*

Your theme, *"ALKANSYA 2006,"* shows your active participation in helping kids become productive citizens by inculcating in them the values of saving and the careful management of resources. Through your credo, *"Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams,"* your savings advocacy campaign has already reached a total of 120,000 students in 25 schools. You have truly imbibed in them valuable lessons in thrift as it becomes essential in becoming productive and responsible adults. I commend you for your continued dedication in protecting the interests of your clients, especially the small depositors who save to secure a better future for themselves and their loved ones.

More power and *MABUHAY!*

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

FROM THE GOVERNOR BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

Congratulations to The Real Bank for marking its 30th anniversary!

As you commemorate this historic occasion, I trust that you will stay true to your corporate dictum of "Upholding Filipino Values, Supporting Filipino Dreams." You are doing a fine job of empowering the youth through your savings advocacy campaign. This definitely helps in instilling values among the youth so they will learn to appreciate the economical use of resources.

I also call on the Bank to continually strive for growth and excellence--a challenge that confronts all banking industry players. Banks would do well to enhance their financial strength, adhere to sound corporate governance practices and boost their competitive advantage by honing excellence in specific target markets.

I enourage you to continue on a similar proactive stance in rising up to the challenge and to remain supportive of the BSP's policies and reform initiativesthat are geared toward ensuring greater stability and efficiency of the banking system.

With vision to guide us and with steadfast action, together we can be assured of success in this endeavor.

Mabuhay po kayo!

AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD THE REAL BANK

It is with great honor and pride that we present the new **The Real Bank** to our clients, our partners and friends on its 30th year as we aptly call our celebration **ALKANSYA 2006** – Ang Lakas ng Kabuhayan Ay Nakasalalay Sa Yamang nagmumula sa tamang Aral.

We ground our Bank's new direction towards *Upholding Filipino Values and Supporting Filipino Dreams.* The first steps we have taken have essentially laid the foundation for this new direction. Now, we continue to stay on this same course—this time **directing our efforts toward serving the needs of the Filipino worker.** Having set down the values we believe to be essentials of nation building, we pursue this path that will actively help support the Filipino achieve his dreams.

This is the road we have chosen to take and that which we will actively follow. Our victory will greatly depend on strong partnerships that we are able to build within our organization, with our industry partners and with our friends.

Above all, The Real Bank shall remain to provide REAL service to our clients who have placed their trust in us knowing that we are expected to do no less.

JOSE G. ARAULLO

Mr. Marcial O. T. Balgos
Director
Mr. Jose L. Acuzar
Director
Jose G. Araullo
Chairman of the Board
Alfredo S. Barretto
President
Eduardo I. Plana
Director

The Real Bank celebrates its 30th Anniversary this July 14, 2006 by drawing closer to its goal of transforming itself into a "Workers' Bank" for millions of Filipinos.

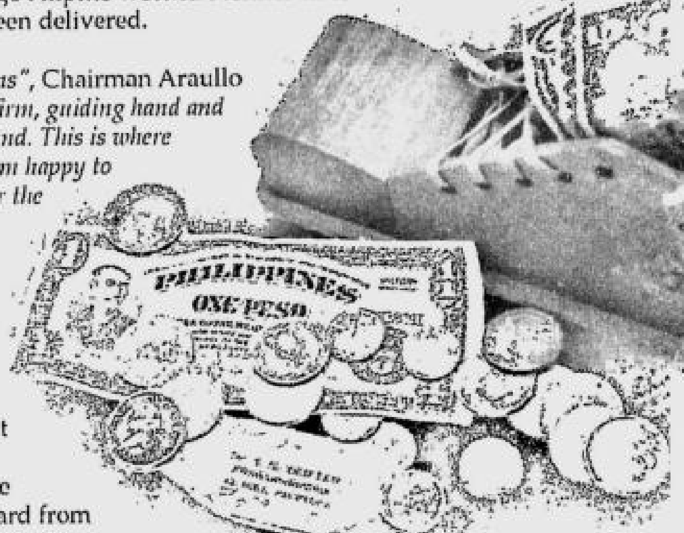
Bank Chairman Jose Araullo outlined the steps taken by the Bank in recent years to bring the Bank along the path of a more stable and profitable operations. He also revealed his ultimate vision of how the Bank will eventually tap into the workers' market segment -- a lucrative - but relatively undeveloped market.

"Banks have, by and large, catered to this segment with a mixture of cautious cooperation and sometimes, downright uncertainty. We don't see any local bank devoting a substantial part of its resources to broadcast a clear and consistent stand in serving this market. And yet everyday, we acknowledge that Filipino workers, both here and abroad, contribute a lot of value to our economy. This is a gap which we intend to address at the soonest time."

Chairman Araullo went on to explain that Overseas Filipino workers sent home a staggering USD 10.689 billion last year, with current economic indicators pointing to a much bigger figure even before the year is over. On the other hand, domestic workers have also done their share in the export and import sectors, where the most updated government data shows a production value of PHP41.255 Billion in 2005 and PHP 47.418 Billion respectively.

Although local banks tend to carry this segment in their deposit and loan portfolios, Chairman Araullo lamented that this exposure is just considered as a part of the banks' over-all balance sheet, and may not even be of sufficient magnitude to impact the average Filipino worker. Neither does Chairman Araullo think that the proper service levels have been delivered.

"It's not just simply a matter of accepting deposits or giving out loans", Chairman Araullo added. *"We must realize that our clients also need to be extended a firm, guiding hand and instilled with the proper mindset, as well. These factors go hand-in-hand. This is where The Real Bank's advocacies and value-added services come in. And I am happy to say that our Bank has consistently and consciously delivered these over the three years since we took over management of The Real Bank."*



The Bank's cornerstone advocacy - the "Bata...Bata...Mag-Impok at Magsinop" Savings Advocacy Campaign has imparted much awareness for thriftiness among schoolchildren for the past three years. In fact, the Program has reaped three awards to date - one award from the Asian Banker's Association, a Golden Citation Award for Best Family and Community Advocacy from the National Consumers Quality Awards in 2005 and an International Citation Certificate from the Global Excellence Awards Committee. The Bank sees this advocacy as merely an interim stage toward crafting a more comprehensive program for the Filipino worker.

"Today, the thrift campaign is limited to Filipino schoolchildren. In the future, we also intend to bring in their parents-who are also incidentally Filipino workers -- into the Bank's sphere of influence", the Chairman continued. *"Once they're inside our Bank's orbit, they will realize just how relevant and appropriate our products and services can be for their specific requirements."*

The Chairman traced the initiatives that the Bank undertook over the past years to prepare itself to serve this segment better.

Peso deposit portfolio increased to PHP 2.768 billion as of June 2006 from the previous level of PHP 1.323 Billion in June 2003. Average interest rate on peso deposit was likewise reduced significantly, without sacrificing competitiveness in the market. Meanwhile, USDollar deposits increased from USD 750 Thousand to USD 1.6 Million from yearago levels.

The Bank also resumed lending operations, with new loans generated amounting to PHP 2.592 Billion. The lower cost of deposits resulted in more competitive lending rates for the Bank's borrowers.

"To prove our sincerity in bringing about these changes, we are currently in the middle of finalizing plans to increase paid-up capital so that we can be more flexible with our strategies. Once the proper regulatory approvals come in, we expect that the additional capital will be forthcoming before the end of the third quarter of this year", the Chairman reported.

The Real Bank will host a cocktail party for its valued clients and selected honorees at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The Real Bank

The Real Bank
A Thrift Bank

Board of Directors

Jose G. Araullo
Chairman of the Board

Alfredo S. Barretto
President

Jose L. Acuzar
Atty. Marcial O.T. Balgos
Eduardo Plana

Officers

Edgardo O. Ignacio
Executive VP

Maximo V. Estrada
First Senior VP

Senior VPs
Atty. Dionisio C. Hernandez
Nathaniel S. Aguilar
Franco E. Burgos

First VPs
Raquel T. Cabawatan
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Reynaldo G. Monasterial
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Jeofrey R. Tupas
Editha P. Mañago

Assistant VPs
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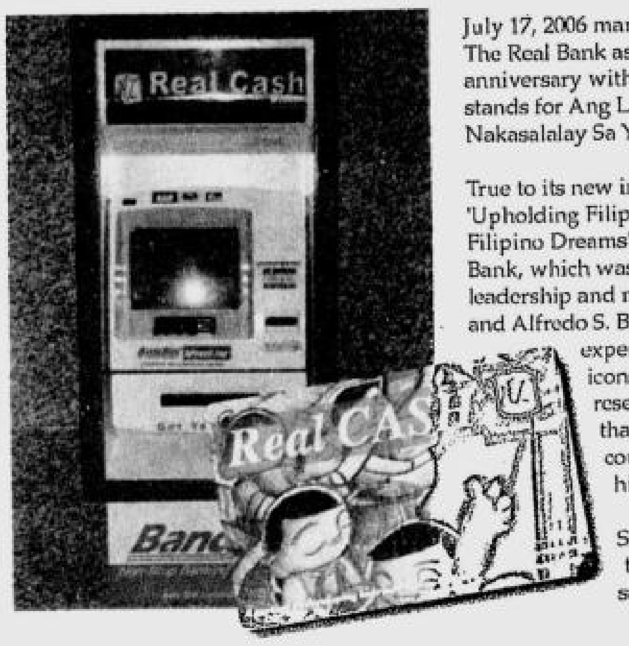
Ariel D. Gonzales
Rogelio D. Mendoza
Esther P. Walde
Elmer S. Bautista
Aurelio B. Martin
Carmelito A. Tan
Ma. Aurora S. Cuevas
Samson W. Ngo

Upholding Filipino Values & Supporting Filipino Dreams for 30 years

The Real Bank
A Thrift Bank

Celebrating a milestone with Alkansya 2006



July 17, 2006 marks a significant milestone for The Real Bank as it celebrates its 30th anniversary with ALKANSYA 2006 - which stands for Ang Lakas ng Kabuhayan Ay Nakasalalay Sa Yamang dulot ng tamang Aral.

True to its new image and dictum of 'Upholding Filipino Values and Supporting Filipino Dreams' launched in 2004, The Real Bank, which was then placed under the leadership and management of Jose G. Araullo and Alfredo S. Barretto - both well known and experienced bankers and business icons, strove to evolve from its reserved and low-profile image to that which is aggressive, courageous, pro-active and highly professional.

Serving as the cornerstone of this new image is the Bank's savings advocacy project with the Department of Education called "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" which, to date, has already won three major awards that include citations from the 2005 Asian Banking Awards, the National Consumers' Quality Awards of 2005 for Family and Community Advocacy and the 2005 Global Excellence Award for Best Family and community Advocacy.

Coupled with various improvement and development programs that enhanced the organization as well as the operations and control, The Real Bank managed to significantly advance its status in the thrift bank industry with a marked improvement in its total resources, deposit base, loan and investment portfolio and paid up capital.

At 30, The Real Bank stands tall and proud as it makes its way to the top and become one of the country's partners in nation building by providing quality banking services and reviving Filipino values that are valuable to the Filipino's success.

For the first semester of 2006 alone, The Real Bank has added three new valuable products to its clients-the Real CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan" ATM services which effectively makes their ATM account holders their partners in its savings advocacy campaign; the Real Earner which offers high yields for long term deposits; and the Real Deal which offers affordable auto loan packages. All these were launched to attest to the sincerity of The Real Bank to provide more REAL services to its clients.

NCQA
Asian Banking Awards 2005
Certificate of Recognition
"Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Advocacy Campai

AN ARAULLO FAMILY TRADITION EVOLVES INTO AN ADVOCACY

1940's - During the war years when Filipino families were experiencing the effects of destitution, Dr. Alfonso Araullo decided to turn that period of distress into an opportunity for his whole family to learn discipline, wise use of resources and saving. Leading his family amidst scarcity caused by the economic situation in the country, he carefully taught his children the value of thriftiness and saving. With a firm resolution, he encouraged all his nine children to exercise and develop the habit of saving part of their money in coin banks. He would ask them to line up and personally count these every Christmas and offer an equivalent reward to the one who would have the most savings. He would write down the amount of saving of each child on a piece of paper and would continue monitoring their progress.

Now, over 50 years after, Jose G. Araullo, second son of Dr.Alfonso Araullo, the current Chairman of the Board of The Real Bank has turned that precious family tradition into his personal as well as the Bank's advocacy.

Given the opportunity to lead the organization to new and greater heights, Chairman Araullo re-focused the new Real Bank towards upholding sound Filipino values by which their father raised them, and supporting Filipino dreams as how he himself achieved his own dreams. Using what he strongly and sincerely believes to be a legacy that was passed on to him by his father, he now passes on this value of saving and thriftiness not only to his own children but to other Filipino children trusting that having sound values such as these will help our youth become effective nation builders.

Thus, when presented with the opportunity of partnering with the country's educators in instilling the values of thrift and saving among grade school students, Mr. Araullo recognized the realization of a personal dream.

The "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Savings Advocacy Campaign served as Mr. Araullo's very own contribution to nation-building. As the Bank's orientation evolved into value formation and revival as a major channel of achieving economic stability and financial vigor, advocating these positive values seemed to be the best way to do just that.

Today, the Araullo family tradition lives on.

Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop Year 3 Program Expanded

The Real Bank's "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Savings Advocacy Campaign, now on its third year, was expanded for the school year 2006-2007 as the number of participating schools was increased from 25 to 35 and region-wide contests include not only art painting but also essay writing competition.

Because of the overwhelming positive and encouraging response from participating schools' teachers, students and parents included in the program for its first two years, many private and public schools requested to be integrated in the school-based advocacy campaign realizing how teaching the values of thrift and saving to children can truly help them become future nation-builders.

Expansion of the program was also made possible by the active participation of the Bank's clients through The Real Bank's Real CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan", the ATM account that actually makes accountholders partners of the Bank in advocating these values.

The Year 3 program also invites active participation of the communities as the schools themselves promote saving through murals that strategically display the value of saving with the words "Make every centavo count."

With the perfect collaboration of schools, parents, and organizations like The Real Bank, advocating sound Filipino values like savings and thrift will surely achieve its goal of helping kids become nation builders.

The Real Bank

Kids On ALKANSYA

"Huwag maliitin ang isang alkansya, dahil ito ang magiging paraan upang ang iyong mga pangangailangan sa darating na bukas ay matugunan mo. Mag-isip ka, kung hindi ngayon, kailan pa? Kung hindi ikaw, sino pa? Mag-impok na!"

An excerpt from the winning entry of Mica Lorraine L. Fernando, Real Kiddie Savers' Club member of The Real Bank Baliuag Branch, in the Real Bank's "ALKANSYA" essay writing contest for its Real Kiddie Savers' Club members held last June 17, 2006.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Upholding Filipino Values & Supporting Filipino Dreams for 30 years

The Real Bank
A Thrift Bank

Celebrating a milestone with Alkansya 2006

Real Cash
Real CASH
Banc

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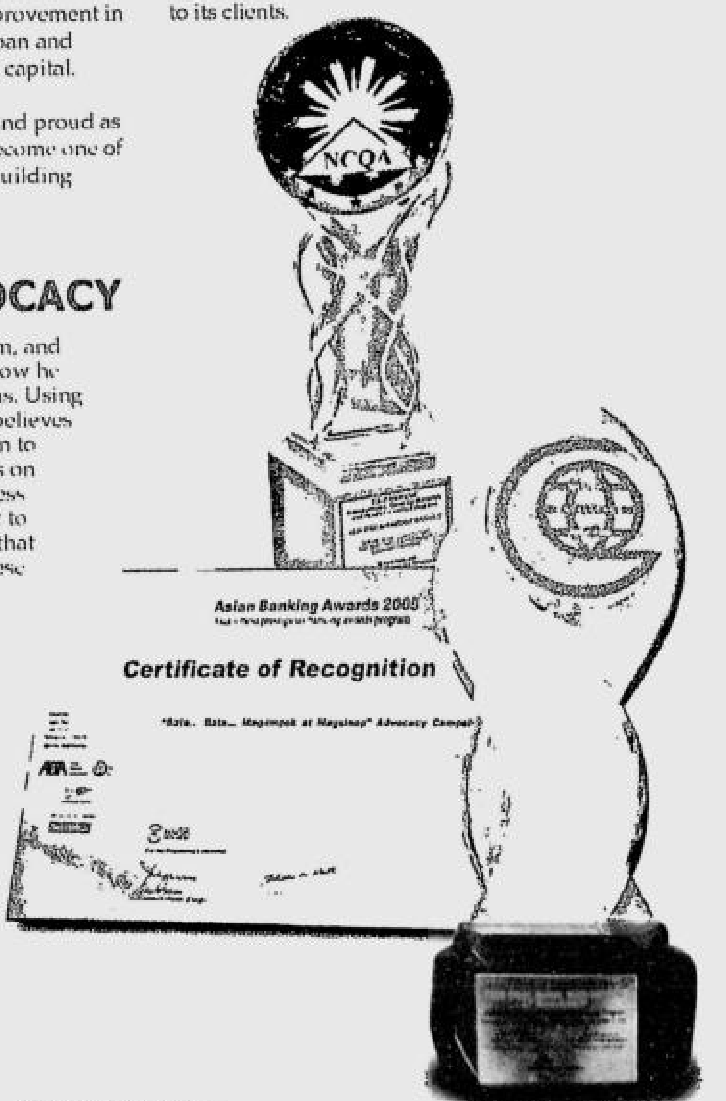
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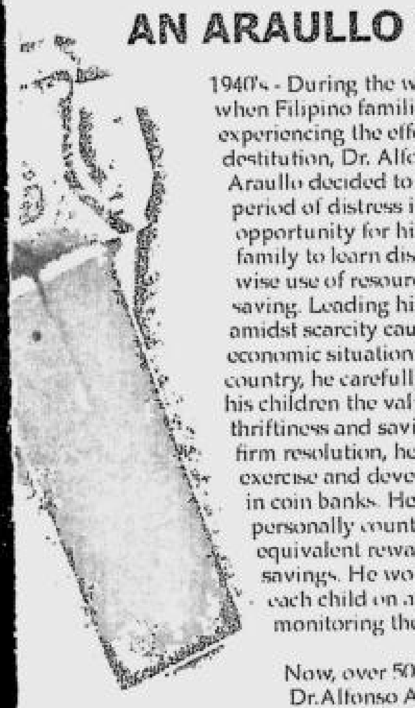

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Expansion of the program was also made possible by the active participation of the Bank's clients through The Real Bank's Real CASH "Tulong sa Kabataan", the ATM account that actually makes accountholders partners of the Bank in advocating these values.

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Invitation to Apply for Accreditation as a Value-Added Solutions Provider for the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites eligible Value-Added Solutions Providers (VASPs) for the Development, Installation and Implementation of the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System.

A complete set of Accreditation Documents (with the Guidelines and Application Form) may be secured by interested Applicants from 14-21 July 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below. The Accreditation Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Applicant or his authorized representative.

Applications for accreditation must be delivered to the address below on or before 5:00 p.m. of 31 August 2006.

PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Application, to annul the accreditation process, and to reject all Applications at any time prior to the issuance of Accreditation Certificate, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Applicant/s.

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Management Information Systems (MIS) Department
2/F PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City
Telephone No. 551-9591, Telefax No. 551-3439
Email: mis@peza.gov.ph
Website: www.peza.gov.ph

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF VALUE-ADDED SOLUTIONS PROVIDERS FOR THE ELECTRONIC IMPORT PERMIT SYSTEM (EIPS)

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) pursues the need to roll-out mission critical applications to further enhance its delivery of services in support of the growth and development of economic zone enterprises. One of the mission critical applications is the filing of Import Permits by PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises with tax and duty-free importation incentives. In order to simplify and facilitate the processing of Import Permits, PEZA will implement the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS) through Value-Added Solutions Providers (VASPs).

Pursuant to PEZA Board Resolution No. 06-261 approving the implementation of the eIPS project, the following guidelines for the accreditation of VASPs for the development and operation of the PEZA Electronic Import Permit System, are hereby prescribed and promulgated for the information, guidance and compliance of all concerned:

Section 1. *Definition of Terms.* In connection with the PEZA accreditation of VASPs for the development and operation of automated systems such as the eIPS, the following definitions are hereby adopted:

a. Electronic Import Permit System or eIPS shall refer to an online system for filing and processing of PEZA Import Permit applications of PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises which ensures that importations covered by the enterprises' tax and duty-free importation privilege are limited to machinery and equipment, raw materials, parts and components and other production inputs required for the manufacture of their registered products and/or operation of their registered activities;

b. Value-Added Service Providers or VASPs are reputable IT enterprises with the technical expertise and capability for the development, installation and implementation of eIPS inside economic zones, which will allow economic zone enterprises to have their Import Permit applications processed on a round-the-clock (i.e., 24x7) basis.

Section 2. *Required Components of the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS).* The eIPS, which PEZA-accredited VASPs shall operate continuously on a round-the-clock basis, shall have the following automated components:

a. Electronic module for the preparation and submission of the Import Permit (eIPS) application, in compliance with the data requirements and specification of PEZA;

b. Electronic and secured data network infrastructure for the connectivity for PEZA-registered enterprises or their respective authorized representatives to eIPS;

c. Electronic module for the validation of the items declared in the eIPS application against the respective list of importables as approved by PEZA and other screening parameters as may be specified by PEZA;

d. Electronic module for the collection of payment of the PEZA Processing Fee for Import Permit applications (e.g., e-banking, G-cash, auto-debit, etc.), as well as recording and reporting of each payment collected;

e. Electronic module for validation of the ownership of every import shipment, to be triggered by the payment of the PEZA Processing Fee for the application for an Import Permit for such shipment; and

f. Electronic module for confirmation of delivery to the economic zone destination of every tax and duty-exempt import shipment released on the basis of a PEZA Import Permit processed under the eIPS.

Section 3. *Qualifications of VASP for PEZA Accreditation.* Value-Added Solutions Providers seeking accreditation with PEZA shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

a. A minimum of three (3) consecutive years of actual involvement in the development and implementation of electronic systems/ solutions, in the business, industrial or public sector projects or undertaking;

b. Possess in-house technical expertise and capability for developing and implementing electronic/automated systems, and/or partnership with other IT organizations/ facilities that will ensure access to specialized expertise on customs procedures, security infrastructures for network/ electronic systems;

c. Familiarity with Import-Export transactions of PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises, customs cargo clearance procedures and related operations;

d. Has the capacity to provide a 24x7 non-stop service;

e. Willing to adjust and further test their proposed solution to satisfy other requirements or perform related operations or processes that PEZA may decide to incorporate in its Import Permit processing function;

f. Willing to install and provide PEZA with access to the approved solution at no cost, as well as the database generated on all Import Permit applications processed.

Provided, that the verification for the compliance by a VASP with these minimum qualifications shall include an evaluation of the following performance and capability indicators:

a. Three operating electronic/automated systems developed and installed by the VASP for client organizations, which the client organizations had formally acknowledged as effectively providing the solutions required, as specified in the service contract for the VASP's engagement;

b. In-house staff complement with relevant educational qualifications, experience in the fields of Enterprise Systems Design and Development, Software Applications Development, Database Architecture and Administration, Network Design and Administration, and IT Training; and

c. Formal or documented relationship with other IT organizations with specialized expertise or capabilities relevant to the development and implementation of the eIPS.

Section 4. *Compliance of the Proposed eIPS to PEZA Minimum Requirements.* The eIPS should satisfy the minimum requirements outlined in Annex A, which shall form part of these guidelines. In addition, PEZA shall determine the effectiveness of the proposed eIPS in complying with the objectives of the Authority's Import Permit issuing function, through conduct of live test-processing of actual Import Permit applications of economic zone enterprises.

The proposed eIPS should also be compatible with the requirements of the automated import cargo transfer system being developed by the Bureau of Customs as part of its computerization program.

Section 5. *Responsibilities of a PEZA-accredited VASP.* A PEZA-accredited VASP shall have the following responsibilities:

a. Undertake, at no cost to PEZA, the development, testing, installation, operation and maintenance of their respective systems to comply with PEZA requirements in the implementation of the eIPS;

b. Provide efficient and continuous round-the-clock electronic Import Permit application processing service to PEZA and PEZA-registered economic zone enterprises;

c. In cooperation with the PEZA-accredited banks, immediately collect and automatically deposit in PEZA-designated accounts appropriate Processing Fees on all Import Permit applications successfully processed under the eIPS;

d. Provide PEZA daily reports on PEZA Import Permit applications processed by the eIPs and fees collected;

e. To provide support and assistance required for the training of PEZA personnel on the operation of the eIPS and related activities free of charge.

Section 6. *Other Terms and Conditions for PEZA-accreditation of VASPs.* PEZA-accredited VASPs shall comply with the following additional terms and conditions for their accreditation:

a. The VASP shall use the eIPS solely for the processing of Import Permit applications of authorized economic zone enterprises;

b. In consultation with PEZA, coordinate with PEZA-approved banks on arrangements required for the operation of the web-based electronic payment system for the collection and deposit of the Import Permit Processing Fee in designated PEZA accounts;

c. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall develop, pilot-test and provide an electronic system for the processing of Import Permits in accordance with the minimum requirements enumerated in Annex A hereof and such other requirements that PEZA may consider necessary for the implementation of the eIPS;

d. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall make available to authorized PEZA-registered enterprises and their nominated brokers, as well as economic zones and PEZA-Customs Documentation Units (PCDUs), on a round-the-clock (24x7) basis, access to the eIPS for the processing of IP applications and assistance;

e. The VASP may charge authorized PEZA-registered enterprises using its eIPS for the processing of Import Permit applications a market-determined Transaction Service Automation Fee;

f. The VASP shall secure written PEZA clearance prior to entering into any arrangement and/or agreement with any entity (e.g., Bureau of Customs, banks, etc.) pertaining to the implementation of the eIPS;

g. The VASP shall provide training for PEZA officers and personnel, as well as economic zone enterprises on the use of the eIPS;

h. The VASP shall generate and submit to PEZA daily reports on eIPS processed applications, including PEZA IP Processing Fees collected;

i. At no cost to PEZA, the VASP shall provide assistance on the day-to-day operation and maintenance of eIPS, as may be necessary;

j. As authorized by PEZA, the VASP shall establish the necessary link and/or transmission of data to the BOC System;

k. The VASP shall notify PEZA within 60 days of any planned suspension, or termination of services;

l. Depending on the gravity of the violation, PEZA shall impose penalties in the form of fine not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) upon the VASP for violation of these guidelines or any of the PEZA rules;

m. The VASP agrees to keep and hold PEZA and its officers free and harmless from and against any and all losses, claims, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses of any legal action, claims and/or judgments arising out of or by reason of any injury or liability caused by any person relating to the services and operation of the eIPS it designed and is implementing;

n. The VASP shall execute an Undertaking/ Warranty Against Liability to indemnify PEZA and/or PEZA-registered enterprises availing of its services for damages arising from the operation of the eIPS and signifying that persistent defects in the eIPS shall be sufficient ground for the cancellation of the accreditation of the VASP.

Section 7. *Documentary Requirements for PEZA Accreditation as VASP.* A VASP may apply for accreditation with PEZA by submitting the following requirements:

a. Duly accomplished PEZA Application Form for VASP Accreditation

b. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, and Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

c. Valid Mayor's/Business Permit or Municipal License

d. Applicant's Notarized Undertaking to serve as guarantee of performance

e. Anti-Graft Certificate (R.A. 3019)

f. Applicant's Notarized Undertaking/Warranty Against Liability

g. Certificate of Filing of Application

h. Bio-data of Principal Officers

i. Certification under oath by the VASP or its duly authorized representative that all documents submitted in connection with its application for PEZA accreditation is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct.

j. Detailed information on three (3) or more operational systems it has developed for client organizations, which shall include the following (please use the Project Data Sheet Format in Annex F):

  1) Client organization and CEO or Project Manager responsible for contracting development of the Project

  2) Project Name and Narrative Description of the Project

  3) The name and contact details of the client organization

  4) Date and duration of the contract

  5) Description of the functions/services of the client organization which were automated; components, modules and features of the automated system; and the benefits resulting from implementation of the automated system, for the client organization as well as other parties involved

  6) Any proof of satisfactory completion of the development, installation and implementation of the system, particularly commendations issued by the client organization and other beneficiaries

k. A detailed project proposal describing how the minimum requirements for the eIPS will be delivered and maintained by the VASP. The proposal shall indicate fees/cost to be imposed on users and on PEZA.

l. Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding year.

Section 8. *Fees.* Fees for accreditation of the VASP covered by these guidelines shall be as follows:

a. Filing fee - P3,600.00
b. Accreditation Fee - P6,000.00

Section 9. *Duration of Accreditation.* The Certificate of Accreditation which shall be issued by the Director General or her duly authorized representative shall be effective for a period of two years and renewable every two years thereafter, subject to payment of the Accreditation Fee.

Section 10. *Suspension or Cancellation of Accreditation.* Any misrepresentation in connection with the application or violation of the provisions of this guideline or any PEZA rules and regulations shall be sufficient ground for the suspension or cancellation of accreditation as VASP without prejudice to imposition of penalties pursuant to RA 7916 as amended and its implementing rules and regulations.

Section 11. *Repealing clause.* All rules and regulations of PEZA not consistent with these guidelines are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity.* These guidelines shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation and shall take effect immediately following such publication.

ANNEX A

Minimum Requirements for the Electronic Import Permit System (eIPS)

The Automated Systems developed must have the following minimum requirements:

A. Environment and Technical Capability
  1. A front-end system or web-based interface, secured, scalable and user-friendly application
  2. Systems, network and connectivity backup and recovery systems in place
  3. Assured access by economic zone enterprises, PEZA economic zone and PCDU users to the systems of all accredited VASPs using the same computer

B. Enrolment System
  1. Open to all economic zone enterprises which enjoy tax and duty-free importation privilege on raw materials, parts and components, machinery and equipment and other production inputs required for their PEZA-registered activities in accordance with specific guidelines to be issued by PEZA
  2. Open to PEZA-accredited brokers formally authorized by qualified economic zone enterprises, subject to the validity period of the brokers' PEZA accreditation

C. Screening Parameters
  1. PEZA-Registered Enterprise registered for the eIPS
  2. PEZA-accredited brokers duly nominated by the respective PEZA-registered enterprise
  3. PEZA-Approved List of Importables
  4. Item/Product Codes or Item Description
  5. HS Codes
  6. Payment of PEZA Fees

D. Electronic Payment Component
  1. e-Payment through accredited Banks
  2. Auto-Debit (advance payment to PEZA)
  3. e-Payment through mobile phone fund transfer services (i.e. G-Cash)
  4. Others solutions that may be proposed later

E. Electronic Broadcasting or System to provide enterprises timely pre-alert information on all import shipments attributed to them
  1. SMS or email message to PEZA-registered enterprise
  2. Automatic processing if positive reply or time to reply lapsed, and Alert Notification by the PEZA-registered enterprise for the suspension of processing if ownership is denied

F. Delivery confirmation of import shipment at the zone destination
  1. Online confirmation of receipt of goods at the economic zone, either by the PEZA-registered Enterprise or by the PEZA Zone Office

G. Reportorial Requirements
  1. Daily reports on actual eIPS applications and status
  2. Daily reports on collections and remittances to the PEZA Account
  3. Periodic summary reports

H. Ownership of Data
  1. PEZA to own the List of Importables and eIPS database

(PDI--July 14, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot supply, installation and commissioning of one (1) unit CNC Universal Milling/Engraving Machine per BSP specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P18,000,000.00
Contract Duration	Within ten (10) weeks after opening of Letter of Credit (L/C)

Prospective bidders should have-undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	7 July to 31 July 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	4 August 2006; 2:00 p.m.
3. Opening of Bids	29 August 2006 2:00 p.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon papyment of a non-refundable amount of P9,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI--July 14, 2006)

Municipal Government of Gloria

Contract Reference Number 2006-INFR-01
Name of the Contract Construction of Gloria Municipal Public Market
Location of the Contract Maligaya/Poblacion, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	*Construction of Gloria Municipal Public Market*
Location	*Maligaya/Poblacion, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro*
Brief Description	*Construction of Concrete & Structural Steel One (1) Storey Market Building with Sixty Five (65) Stalls, Comfort Room, Administration Office, Power House & Drainage System*
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	*PhP 22,400,000.00*
Contract Duration	*Nine (9) months*

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	July 18-24, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	July 18-24, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	July 18-24, 2006
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	July 25-August 8, 2006
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 9-September 26, 2006
6. Pre-Bid Conference	September 19, 2006
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 26, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at the *Office of the Municipal Mayor, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro* upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) to the Treasurer of the Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00) to the Treasurer of the *Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro.*

The *Municipal Government of Gloria, Oriental Mindoro* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) CELSO S. SEMILLA, JR.
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-July 9 & 14, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, San Fernando Pampanga
Healthline (046) 963-7148 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
PRO III - ITB No. III-06-001

PhilHealth Regional Office (PRO) III, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites data centers / encoding centers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Out-Sourcing of Data Conversion Services for PRO III Database
Location	:	PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description	:	Encoding of PhilHealth Members' Contributions in the Quarterly Remittance Reports
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Php 2,100,000.00
Contract Duration	:	65 working days
Delivery Period	:	Within 15 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	July 14, 2006 to July 28, 2006
2. Pre-Bid Conference	July 28, 2006
3. Opening of Bids	August 9, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	August 10 to 17, 2006
5. Post-Qualification	August 18 to 25, 2006
6. Notice of Award	September 11, 2006

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,100.00 to the Cashier of PhilHealth Regional Office III.

(Sgd.) **PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-July 14 & 21, 2006)

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard cor. San Luis St.
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MERASENKO CORPORATION (MC)** with plant site at the Mactan Economic Zone II - Special Economic Zone (FPIP-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of drainage bag and its accessories for medical use based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA (Tel. Nos. 551-9544; and Telefax 551-3456).

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI - July 14, 2005)

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& SONS-AUCTIONEER
(PDI - July 14, 2006)

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CALVARIO, MEYCAUAYAN
BULACAN. ALL UNREDEEMED
PLEDGES OF JAN. 2006
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(PDI - July 14, 2006)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

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ACR E 233518 Maurio Verde

If found return to Unit 1229, MEGA PLAZA, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or call 687-1277. Look for Richelle

(PDI--July 6 & 14, 2006)

OBITUARIES

MARICA A. ABAYA

Peacefully passed away
in the Grace of the Lord on July 12.

Her loving husband **Antonio**; children **Carla, Gina** and **Sergie, Hochi, Melissa** and granddaughter **Allegria**; her mother, her brother and sisters and in-laws, her nieces and nephews mourn their irreparable loss.

Masses will be celebrated for the eternal repose of her soul on July 14, 15 and 16 at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Dominador T. Dionisio, Jr.

Was called home to the Lord on Wednesday, 12 July 2006.

His loving wife **Pita Rodriguez** and children **Con-Con** and **Joey Molina, Doy** and **West Diaz** and **Josette**; grandchildren: **Toni** and **Luis**; request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the family residence at #620 San Nicolas, Bulacan, Bulacan. Interment will be at the Bulacan Catholic Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Maria Assumpta Parish.

LEONIDES M. LOPEZ

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 11, 2006 at the age of 76.

He is preceded in death by his wife **Ursula de Guzman**, 72 yrs. old. He is survived by his children **Ronnie & Girlie**, **Edgar** and grandchild **Diego**, brothers, sisters and in-laws

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque on July 16, 2006 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
of the
2nd Death Anniversary
of the late

ESTELA PRIMICIAS SINDICO

Former Undersecretary – Department of Social Welfare

who passed away on July 15, 2004.

Her husband EDGARDO S. SINDICO;
Children and in-laws **Philip** and **Bing-bing**, **Marla** and **Misael Lim**, **Edgardo Jr.**, **Fabi** (†), **Marivic** and **Matthew Pineda**, **Dennis** and **Maribel**, **Jesse** and **Minda**, **Sony** and **Arthur Munsayac**, **Malou** and **Joey Garganera**, grandchildren and relatives request their friends and the pious reader to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, July 15, 2006
at the following Churches:

Quezon City
Sto. Domingo Church – 8:00 AM
The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Church – 5:30 AM
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish – 6:30 AM
Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary – 6:30 AM
and 11.00 AM at the Church Ossuary

Iloilo City
St. Anne's Molo Parish Church – 6:30 AM
Immaculate Concepcion Tanza Parish Church – 6:00 AM

Pangasinan
St. Dominic Church, San Carlos City – 7:00 AM

RIZALINO "RIZ" M. NATIVIDAD

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 12, 2006
at the age of 74.

His loving wife, **Nenita**; children **Bong** (†), **Jojo** & **Arthur** and granddaughter, **Piper** and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His ashes lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, located at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Requiem Mass will be held at
9:00 AM on Saturday, July 15, 2006.

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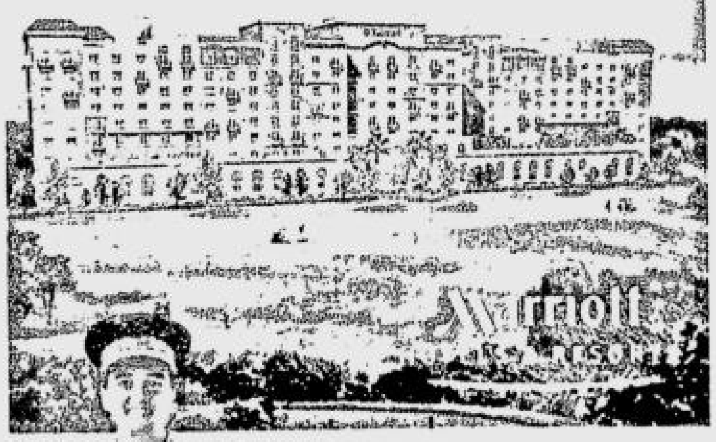

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Go on a food trip at a hip restaurant row.

Dine on the best of the East and West. Choose from casual and fine-dining places—all a stroll away from home. And delight in alfresco gourmet feasts as you watch live performances.

5

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Keep up with the latest styles. Visit the nearby haute couture stores and indulge in hours of shopping pleasure. Go ahead. Grab, try and buy.

6

Get together with neighbors at the play areas.

Nurture neighborly ties. Lounge with friends at the swimming pool. Work out together at the gym. Hone your game at the badminton and tennis courts or putting green. Or bond with your families at the landscaped gardens and playground.

7

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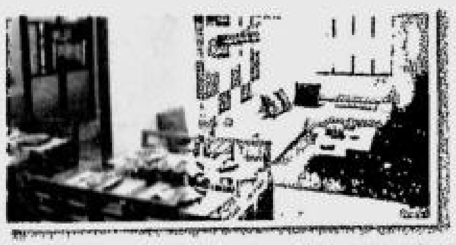

Through your wide windows and balcony, welcome sunlight, fresh air and the scent of lavishly landscaped gardens. And take pleasure in a wealth of open-air play amenities literally at your door.

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'Chikahan' fast becoming marketer's strongest tool

Consumers now spend a lot of time talking about brand experiences

WORD-OF-MOUTH HAS REGAINED the marketer's attention around the world as consumers spend a lot of time talking about brand experiences with others around them, particularly family and friends. It helps that technological advancements on the Internet and mobile phone facilitate the exchange of information and experiences more easily.

Here in the Philippines, media agency Universal McCann furthered the exploration of word-of-mouth through its proprietary tools Media in MindTM and Brand EngageTM. The Media in MindTM is a quantitative survey covering 1,000 16-50 year-olds across key urban areas in the country. Brand EngageTM, on the other hand, is

'CHIKAHAN'/ B3

Young Adults Who Completely Agree With The Statements
(Indexed among 22-35 year-olds vs. All Adults 16-50, urban nationwide)

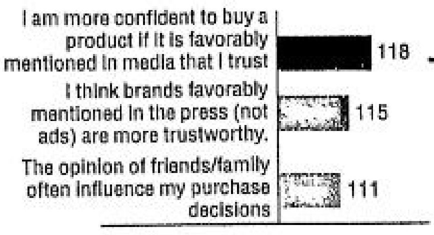


Table I

Upper Class Who Completely Agree with the Statements
(Indexed among people from AB homes vs. All Adults from all eco-classes, urban nationwide)

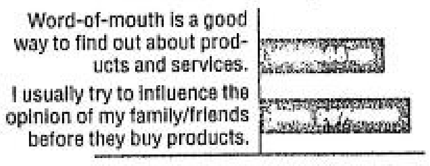


Table 2

Mass Market Who Completely Agree with the Statements
(Indexed among people from D homes vs. All Adults from all eco-classes, urban nationwide)

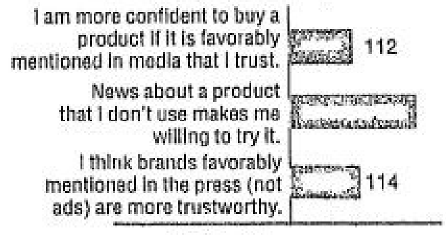


Table 3

Wal-Mart exec comes to Manila

WAL-MART, THE UNDISPUTED RETAIL leader worldwide, which in 2004 grossed $288.19 billion, according to Stores Magazine's 2005 Triversity Top 100 Retailers ranking, comes to Manila this August.

Its low-price big box store model has been copied by retailers worldwide with the hope of replicating its success. But no one has been able to topple the retail giant founded by Sam Walton.

The Philippines will feel Wal-Mart's presence through its Director for Development Ben Cornish who will talk about Wal-Mart's presence in the world's largest consumer market in his topic "Global Retailing Innovation: The Wal-Mart China Experience."

He is scheduled to be at the 15th National Retailers Conference on Aug. 10-11, 2006 at the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong and its twin activity, the 15th Stores Asia Expo on Aug. 9-11 (15th NRCE).

"Innovation in an Age of Complexities" is the theme of 2006 NRCE which is organized by the Philippine Retailers Association (Tel. No. 687-4180/81; Fax. 6360825; email pra@nwave.net; Telefax 6874985), the acknowledged national organization of retailers in the country and sponsored by Versacard and PLDT Business Solutions.

Supported by Ayala Center, SM, Araneta Center and Robinsons, the 15th retailers confab will also feature other global speakers like retail guru and keynote speaker Dr. Dale Achabal from the Sta. Clara University, California; and Singapore's Steven Goh, executive director of Retail Asia, the leading retail business magazine.

The country's Entrepreneur of the Year 2005 Robinsons Land president/COO Lance Gokongwei is the guest of honor opening the two-day conference while Elizabeth Lee, Universal Motors (Nissan) senior vice president and CAMPI president will keynote Day Two.

Latest corporate giveaways, solutions unveiled

THE LATEST IN CORPORATE GIVEAWAYS and business solutions is set to be unveiled at the Corporate World 2006 buyers' show at the World Trade Center Metro Manila on July 14-16.

On exhibit are corporate business gifts, marketing tools, below-the-line advertising specialties, and promotional novelties and premiums that corporate firms use to strengthen their company goodwill, enhance their products' brand visibility and recall, and establish personal affinity with consumers and industry peers.

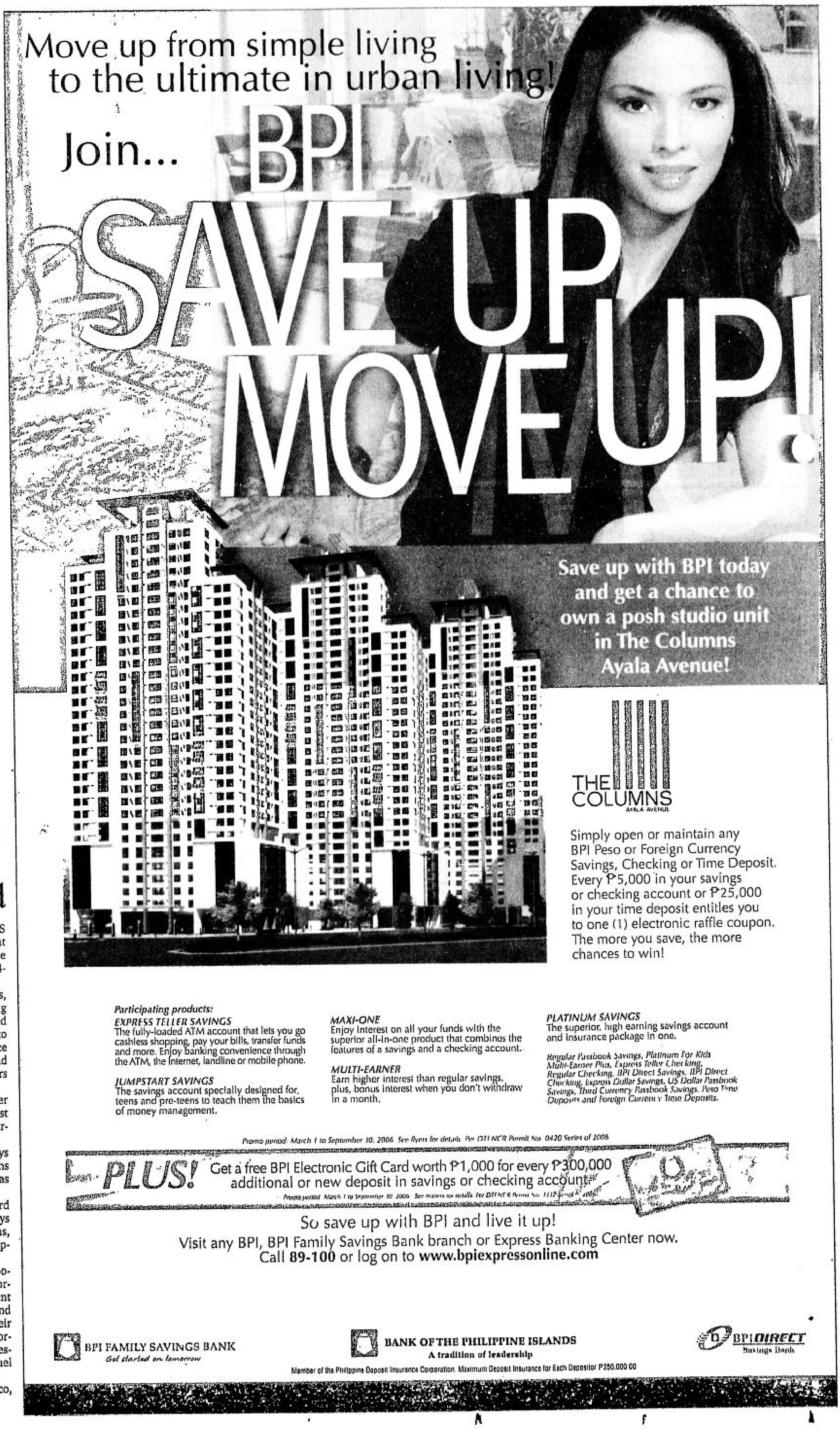
These products will be showcased under Corporate Giveaways, the Philippines' longest running buyers' show on such items of enormous corporate and marketing significance.

Now on its 19th year, Corporate Giveaways comes back to back with Corporate Solutions to constitute the Corporate World, dubbed as the country's ultimate corporate show.

Corporate Solutions, which is on its 3rd year, complements Corporate Giveaways through a wide array of business solutions, marketing support services, and office equipment and supplies, among many others.

"Both (Corporate Giveaways and Corporate Solutions) will make the three-day Corporate World 2006 an exciting, convenient and fun-filled get-together for buyers and sellers in discussing and determining their year-round corporate requirements. It (Corporate World 2006) is a one-stop buying destination," said general manager Raquel Romero of Worldexco, the event organizer.

For more information, call Worldexco, 8558342 to 45.



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MAXI-ONE
Enjoy interest on all your funds with the superior all-in-one product that combines the features of a savings and a checking account.

MULTI-EARNER
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Promo period: March 1 to September 10, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0420 Series of 2006

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Promo period March 1 to September 10, 2006. See mailers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1117 Series of 2006

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'Chikahan' becoming . . .

From page B3

qualitative in nature, allowing for a freewheeling expression of one's thoughts and feelings. More than 20 groups have been done across the country exploring this topic.

Whether online or off, most people consider other people as their easiest and most frequent access to the outside world. This starts the wheels spinning for word-of-mouth, or *chikahan* in local parlance. This occurrence could work two ways for a brand: create or sustain awareness and empathy for it, and provide useful information about it.

The best thing about it is that people take liberty in spreading it, and the recipient usually takes it to heart because the word is more often than not from someone close to him and thus highly relevant and credible. As one consumer in Bicol put it: "*Minsan yang napapanuod naming sa TV, hindi naming pinapansin kasi di naman nangyayari sa amin. Pero yung galing sa kaibigan o kamag-anak, binibigyan mo ng halaga kasi malapit sa'yo 'yun... maaring mangyari sa'yo.*"

Of course, not all categories would be directly influenced by word-of-mouth or buzz. The Media in MindTM yields the top four categories whose sales may be positively influenced by buzz: fashion/clothing (24 percent), fastfood restaurants (21 percent), hair care (20 percent) and personal hygiene (19 percent). We see that these are lifestyle categories, which means that specific consumer segments will adopt a trend earlier than others.

The young and the upscale, for instance, ride the fashion trend earlier than most, which makes them key influencers in this category. The upper and middle classes, on the other hand, will serve as good influencers for fastfood restaurants as they tend to try new offerings immediately.

Chikahan also leads to information-sharing about brands, and the top 5 categories that seem to be driven by this are: financial services/investments, tires, cars, computer/IT equipment (all at 44 percent) and air travel (43 percent).

This shows how important it is for people to get correct and complete information in investment categories. This clamor for product knowledge seems to be stronger for women and those belonging to the 36-50 age range.

Why is this "medium" effective, what makes people buy into what other people say? We picked certain statements in the survey, looked at the ones consumers completely agree with, and compared the indices (Indexing is comparing percentages of a specific segment versus the rest of the population). The numbers show varying sentiments. Here are some interesting points.

Young adults (those belonging to the 22-35 year-old range) consider credible opinion leaders as brand confidence-boosters. They believe that opinions shared are often based on brand experience, proof that something works (or doesn't). *(See Table 1)*

The upscale market empowers itself with information in order to make sound choices. What makes them powerful advocates is that their knowledge about a brand doesn't just stay with them. They are the type who would tend to use their knowledge by caring to explain it to other consumers, easily convincing them to try it. *(See Table 2)*

Mass market who completely agree with the statements

(Indexed among people from D homes vs. all adults from all eco-classes, urban nationwide) *(See Table 3)*

Perhaps because they are more cautious in choosing their brands lest they waste their money, the mass market gives weight to the opinion of influencers. Since they may not have the resources to consult experts, they are also more open to listening to media-based expert opinion.

It only takes a sticky idea in the right channel to get word-of-mouth going for a brand. A combination of different media can work efficiently to generate talk, thus they have to be chosen to consider category fit and relevance to the target consumer.

For more information about word-of-mouth or the UM MEDIA IN MINDTM, contact Universal Consulting at 757-2333, or e-mail maita.consulta@ap.universalmccann.com or arlene.aquino@ap.universalmccann.com.

SGS PHILIPPINES Inc., the Philippine affiliate of the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS), launched its new Makati-based Central Laboratory recently. SGS Managing Director Rosario Cajucom-Bradbury (3rd from left) with the Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines, Peter Sutter (5th from left) assist Bureau of Product Standards Assistant Director Shirley Botor in opening the laboratory. Others in photo are (from left): Secretary Richard Saludo and Deputy Customs Commissioner Celso Templo.

A new tax agenda for you and me

By Bernard U. Cobarrubias
and Jose A. Osana
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

WITH THE BROUHAha of the recent corporate tax reform measures nearly dying down, government has now set its sights on restructuring the tax closest to our paychecks and personal businesses—the income tax on individuals.

Will the new individual tax measures spell relief for us? Or will they add to the common-folks' tax burdens?

Not relieving salaried individuals

A recently passed House Bill seeks to reform the taxation of individuals by increasing the highest tax rate from the current 32 percent to 35 percent while it exempts from income tax the minimum wage workers or those earning P55,000 per year or less.

Compensating for the increase in the top rate, the Bill increases by nearly a third the current personal and additional exemptions currently enjoyed by salaried individuals. Under the Bill, single individuals who currently enjoy only P20,000 in annual personal exemptions, will be able to claim P30,000. The personal exemption of heads of the family is increased from P25,000 to P37,500 while married individuals' will be able to deduct P48,000 instead of the current P32,000. An additional exemption of P12,000 for each dependent is also allowed. This is an increase from the current P8,000.

Meanwhile, the exemption of marginal income tax earners departs from the current table which begins to charge 5 percent tax on a measly P10,000 per year salary. Those between the bottom and top earners will be subject to graduated rates ranging 25 percent to 33 percent.

The Department of Finance estimates that under this plan, the government may lose up to almost P600 million in annual revenues from salaried individuals. Observers say, however, that the tax break is well-earned or even an even bigger one, well-deserved by salaried individuals. A study by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) reveals that compensation income earners have been contributing over 80 percent of the tax collection from individuals. Compensation earners were said to average a mere 7 percent tax leakage over the last few years since the taxes are withheld even before salaries are paid.

The Senate version takes the flat tax route for individuals. This means that whether one is at the top rung of the income ladder or a struggling employee, a 35 percent tax is imposed. The Senate tries to make up for this seeming harshness with higher personal exemptions of up to P200,000 annually.

The scheme called SNITS

Congress is also serious about going after the so-called hard to tax sector, the professionals and the self-employed.

Under the current system, self-employed individuals and professionals are taxed in the same way as corporations. They are taxed on net income, meaning that they are given a full menu of expenses which they may claim as deductions. But because of the liberality of the current system, the NTRC study cited above estimated that government is losing a huge 70 percent tax leakage, or forgone revenues of up to P26.7 billion from professionals and self-employed individuals.

To contain the leakage, the House of Representatives wants to reintroduce the "Simplified Net Income Tax Scheme" or SNITS. The SNITS is a system by which individuals engaged in business or those practicing their professions are allowed to deduct only the direct costs of their businesses. These include sole proprietorships like manufacturers, traders, market vendors, owners of eateries, farmers and service shops. Professionals include lawyers, dentists, CPAs, architects, actors, among others who do not earn regular monthly salaries.

Rep. Jesli Lapus, the principal sponsor of the revival of the SNITS, explained that the SNITS will limit the manipulation of allowable deductions by the self-employed and the professionals by limiting the deductions to the direct costs of business as defined by the Bill.

We had a brief flirtation with the SNITS between 1992 and 1997 under Republic Act 7496 or the old SNITS law. The old law provided for a shortened list of allowable deductions that includes materials and supplies, salaries, utilities, rentals, depreciation, interests and certain donations. The old SNITS set a maximum deduction of 40 percent of the business or the professional's gross receipts.

The new SNITS has the same basic features as the old. It adopts the list of deductibles under the old SNITS law and expands the list to also include: sales discounts, sales returns allowances, freight handling and trucking, insurance expense, professional fees, government contributions, taxes and licenses. The new proposed SNITS law also allows the optional standard deduction of 40 percent of the individual's gross revenues in lieu of the itemized deductions in the list.

The SNITS is expected to expand the tax base and enhance government revenues.

New face of old issues

The effectiveness of any tax reform agenda is often judged by its responsiveness to the country's fiscal needs, its efficiency, and its equity.

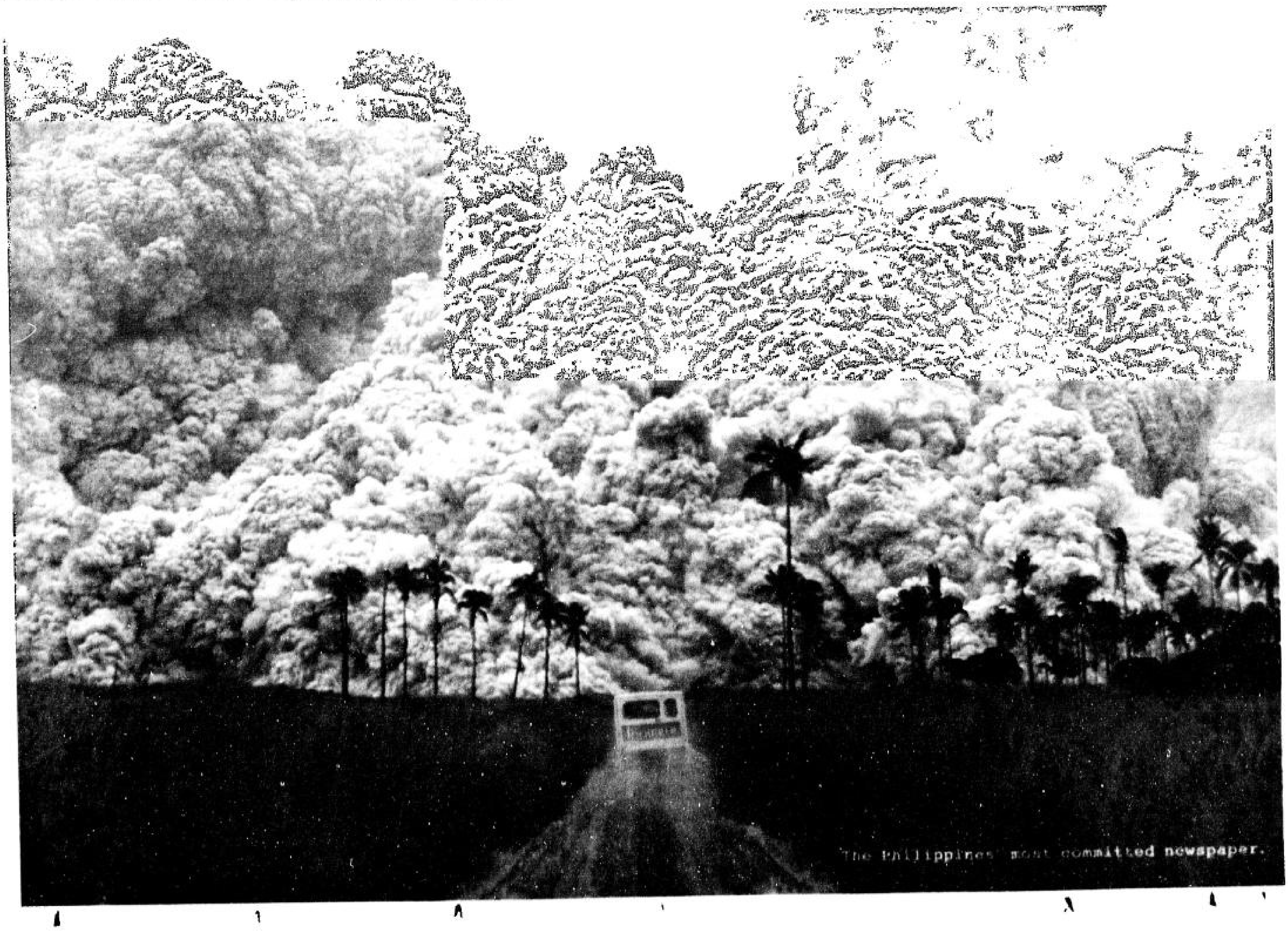
As to salaried individuals, the current system of withholding tax on compensation has already been tested to effectively reduce tax leakage. While the system is efficient, the raising of the top rate to 35 percent will likely attract criticism. From its inception, the Senate version has also raised concern from the middle income earners who are said to be the hardest hit by the flat tax scheme.

In both of these proposals, the basis of the tax will still be gross income, reduced only by the exemptions and the so-called de minimis benefits like rice allowances and the like. Issues of equity have always been raised by salaried workers who are taxed on gross income at a very high rate, but are allowed only to deduct these predetermined and limited exemptions and benefits of small value. Compensation income earners have long decried their plight for being made to carry a heavier, not to mention less foolproof, tax burden.

On the other hand, the reintroduction of the SNITS may also revive the old bone of contention against it. Individual businessmen and professionals have been at odds with the BIR in the past in their claim for deductions for other direct costs of business which are not included in the enumeration.

The BIR's stand is that such costs of doing business as repairs and maintenance, advertising, publicity, membership dues, and representation allowances, are not allowable since these expenses do not appear in the enumeration of direct costs under the law. Taxpayers argue that the SNITS law provides only a list of examples of allowable deductible direct costs. Repairs, maintenance, and such other expenses are, after all, part and parcel of doing business. Thus, the policy behind the distinction is subject to question.

These issues must be thought out well and settled in Congress before the new scheme is passed into law. Otherwise, a new wave of objections may very well be expected from the already tax-weary populace.



CANNES LIONS 2006

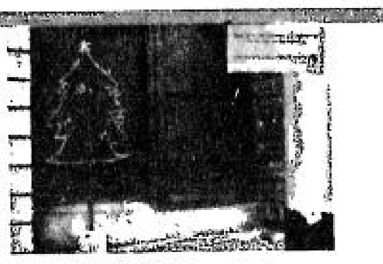
53rd International Advertising Festival

At Cannes, great ideas can come from anywhere

The 53rd Cannes Advertising Festival, held June 18 to 24th, is seen by the world's ad community as the "Oscars" of advertising. And this year it saw the top winners coming from a diversity of countries, no matter the size. Previously the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil and Europe typically dominated the awards. For example: the Titanium Grand Prix, the biggest prize of the festival, was won by a small Japanese design group, Design Barcode — for doing a world's first. The young Japanese graphic designers took the mundane bar code into a design opportunity in product packaging.

バーコード革命
BAR CODE REVOLUTION
CREATED BY DESIGN BARCODE

A WORLD'S first by Design Barcode of Japan win Cannes' biggest award, the Titanium Grand Prix.



CHILDHOPE Asia's poster Campaign wins the Cannes Bronze Lion for BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

THE GUINNESS Beer TV commercial that shows the Theory of Evolution on reverse wins the Film Grand Prix.

Terry Savage, the Festival's executive chair, said, "the ethos of this year's Festival is encapsulated in our marketing campaign 'Where do the Best Ideas Come From'. It is clear that today the best ideas can come from anywhere."

Cannes, where over 24,000 pieces of the best advertising from 81 countries compete, has become more of a level playing field, much like the Fifa World Cup whose live games added to the excitement at Cannes. Any country, any ad agency, local or multinational had a fair chance of winning as long as they played by the rules. At Cannes, it means playing for world standards of advertising excellence.

A surprised Malaysia emerged as Asia's top medal winner with five Golds, three Silvers and three Bronze Lions. Followed by India, Thailand, Japan, and Singapore who all won Cannes Gold Lions. The Philippines and China won three Bronze Lions each. An overall good year for Asia.

Philippine Cannes winners

The triple Cannes Bronze Lions win for the Philippines is our biggest haul ever at the world's most prestigious advertising show. BBDO Guerrero Ortega won for the country two Bronze Lions for the agency's regional client, FedEx, for the "The Delivery" radio commercial, and in outdoor for the poster campaign for Childhope Asia which showed what Filipino street children miss out on at Christmas. Ogilvy & Mather Philippines won a Bronze for the Philippine Daily Inquirer "Volcanic Ash" poster which shows a dramatic shot of the newspaper's delivery van heading straight into the billowing ash of the erupting Mount Pinatubo.

Eight Philippine advertising agencies made an impressive 20 Cannes shortlists, our highest ever, across the awards categories of Film, Print, Outdoor, Radio, Media, Sales Promotions and Direct Marketing. This out of the 170 Philippine entries from over ten ad agencies.

BBDO Guerrero Ortega scored 9 out of the 20 Philippine Cannes finalists. Ogilvy & Mather had four; TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno with two; and DM9JaymeSyfu, JWT, 141 Worldwide, Mediacom, and Y&R, all having one each. The work came for brands like Coca-Cola, FedEx, Tower Records, The Economist, Unilever Pond's, Pizza Hut, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Caramba Hot Sauce, Sara Lee Ambi Pur, Comic Quest Bookstore and public service campaigns for Greenpeace, Childhope Asia, ABC 5 and Concordia Children Services.

Last year saw our first Cannes Lions winner in advertising for the Consuelo Foundation/Unicef "Bunso" TV commercial by BBDO Guerrero Ortega. In 2003, BCD Pinpoint won the Bronze Lion in the Direct Marketing category for an animal shelter fund-raising campaign titled "Dos por Dos".

The country's performance is definitely a step up and as Alex Syfu, managing partner and COO of DM9 Jayme/Syfu, put it, "Cannes was a valuable, engaging experience, you come out inspired, challenged and more hopeful that the Philippines will soon be on the stage receiving a Gold Lion. For DM9, Cannes was truly memorable considering we became a finalist with less than a year in the business, congratulations to my team and the rest of team Philippines! Thanks to the Philippine Daily Inquirer for its support!"

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, represented by vice president for advertising, Pepito Olarte, is the country's Cannes Festival representative. Inquirer has given valuable support for the Philippine team at Cannes. Olarte elates, "It's another great Cannes experience capped by a fantastic performance by team Philippines. Get that Gold Lion next year!"

Our sole juror in Cannes for the Radio Lions, David Guerrero, chair and chief creative officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega, shares that "the judging was tough but conducted in good spirit. Two rounds of anonymous electronic voting and numerous procedural safeguards ensure the best work gets seen, voted on and discussed. It was a real privilege to be asked to join the jury. And it's great that this year the Philippines had the most delegates, entries ever — and our first ever winners in radio and outdoor. After 53 years of Cannes, we're truly joining the world's advertising community in sharing and celebrating the best ideas on the planet."

The Leo Burnett duo, Cecilia Enriquez and John Paul Cuison, held the Philippine flag at the Cannes Lions Young Creative Cyber Competition and worked on a live brief from the Red Cross to publicize its effort to unite families torn apart by war. Teams from Brazil and Poland won the Print and Cyber Young Lions, respectively. The teams for the Young Creatives on the Film Competition made their commercials exclusively on Nokia cell phones. The brief, from the city's mayor, was to promote Cannes and saw the young duo from Netherlands taking the Lion.

Celebration of world's best ideas

This year's selection of the world's best ideas at Cannes, the Grand Prix Lions, were stunning pieces for work for a range of global and local brands — Volkswagen, Lego, Guinness, Bud Light Beer, Lynx Body Spray, Tate Museum in London, Design Barcode in Tokyo, and De Tijd in Dublin spread across the competition categories at Cannes — Film, Press, Outdoor, Media, Direct, Cyber, the new Promo category, and Titanium.

The most important accolade in Cannes, the Titanium Lion, was awarded to a small newcomer at Cannes, Design Code from Japan for their "big idea, never-been-done-before" work on barcodes. The celebrated Film Grand Prix went to Guinness Beer for their "Noitulove" TV commercial by Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO in London. The 60-second spot shows man's evolution running in reverse from the ultimate drink of a pint of Guinness walking backwards to become a caveman, ape, amphibian and finally a tiny creature drinking murky water in a muddy pond. And caps it with the campaign line, "Good things come to those who wait". Paul Brazier, creative director of the Guinness commercial, said "it took us 18 months from start to finish to work on the commercial with a production a budget of over 1.2 million pounds." Well worth it!

Log on to www.canneslions.com to view the Cannes Lions winners.

Cannes–not just about ads

The week-long seminars at Cannes drew in throngs of delegates from the seducing *croisette* beach just steps outside the Palais des Festivals, into the auditoriums. Helped by an exciting list of speakers and panelists from the ad world, plus the presence of actor Martin Sheen and Michael Patrick King, executive producer of "Sex & the City" at the JWT "Makers of Pop-Culture" seminar; actor John Cleese from "Monty Python", James Bond and Harry Potter at the Hermann Vaske seminar; and the popular Saatchi & Saatchi's New Directors Showcase was jam-packed, filling two large auditoriums. A heady list of important things to take in about the communications business, about building brands amidst the fragmented media channels, about technology's role in communication, integration, creativity in targeting our consumers and more.

Whether it be the information overload at the seminars and workshops, or the celebration of the best ideas in the world, or the less-serious but equally important parties, sunbathing on the beach, or watching the live World Cup Football matches at hotel bars, Cannes leaves attendees inspired, hung-over and wishing they could take all of it home with them.

Mila Marquez, vice president/SBU head director, Lowe Philippines, a first-timer at Cannes, described her experience here as "inspiring and thought-provoking. We should be able to contaminate our local partners and colleagues with the creative spirit fostered here."

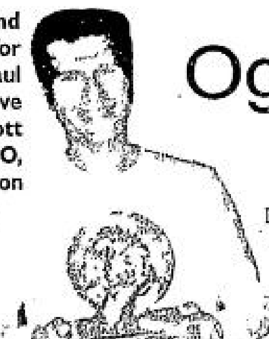
IN FRONT OF PALAIS DE FESTIVAL
From left are Noel Bermejo, Lowe Lintas; Joel Limchoc, BBDO Philippines, Merle Jayme, DM9JaymeSyfu, Alex Syfu, DM9JaymeSyfu, Pepito R. Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Susan Dimacali, DDB Philippines, Carmina Cruz, Evangeline Sauco, Olive Crisostomo and Nap Carrao of Starcom, Milagros Marquez, Lowe Lintas and Raoul Panes, BBDO Philippines.

ANTONIO Sarmiento, Proximity Philippines, Raoul Panes, BBDO Philippines, Jake Tesoro, TBWA SantiagoMangadaPuno, Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer, Reese Ferrer and David Ferrer, JWT Philippines, and Joel Limchoc, BBDO Philippines.

FCB JOHANNESBURG
SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS Grand Prix Winner

OFF to attend the party at the Carlton beachfront is Vanessa Escobar and Jake Tesoro of TBWA\SMP.



CANNES Film Grand Prix winner for Guinness Beer, Paul Brazier, creative director of Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, London

Ogilvy & Mather bags 3 Global Awards

Receives Cannes Bronze Lion & Effies for great work that works

LEADING MULTINATIONAL agency Ogilvy & Mather is on a roll with the awards it has been receiving recently. The agency's poster titled "Volcanic Ash" for Philippine Daily Inquirer bagged a Bronze Lion and three finalists in the 53rd Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival, followed by Gillette Vector First Five's Bronze Award and Dove Campaign for Real Beauty's commendation in the Asian Marketing Effectiveness Award.

"We always aim to produce great work that works — although we've been quiet for awhile, the recognition we've been receiving on a global level is proof positive that we're back with a vengeance," said Tina Coscolluela, Ogilvy & Mather group managing director. "O&M is a 360 Degree Brand Stewardship agency, and we espouse a comprehensive communications plan for our clients — from advertising to PR, customer relationship management (CRM) and Interactive, we focus on what forms of communication will best reach our client's target market, and we make effective use of these disciplines," Coscolluela added.

'Volcanic Ash'

Titled Volcanic Ash, the poster produced for the Philippine Daily Inquirer garnered the much-coveted Cannes Bronze Lion Award for the Publications & Media category that recognizes the "use of media, its application and relevance to its target audience."

The ad's sole image, which was the publication's vehicle going towards Mt. Pinatubo up in smoke, epitomized the publication's commitment to pursuing and investigating the latest news and crises. The creative team was led by executive creative director Gavin Simpson, currently the country's leading creative, and also included Alnair Langkay, Manny del Rosario, Sarah Ko and Caloy Sambrano.

2006 marks the 53rd International Advertising Festival that holds the Cannes Lions. It's the only "annual gathering of advertising, creative, direct marketing interactive, film, radio, media sales promotion and marketing communities" on a global level.

Ogilvy & Mather holds offices at the 15th floor, Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (885-0001).

AT THE CLOSING gala party at Carlton Beach (from left), are David Guerrero, Radio Jury, BBDO Philippines, Pepito R. Olarte, Inquirer, Guillaime van der Stighelen, Radio Jury president, and Angel Guerrero.

141 Worldwide Philippines breaks ground at Cannes

141 WORLDWIDE BECAME THE FIRST Philippine agency to make the shortlist in the Promo Lions Category at the recent 2006 Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival. Their corporate social responsibility (CSR) campaign for Coca-Cola titled "Lose-Gain" was among the 96 entries that survived the initial rounds of judging, outclassing over 500 other entrants from all over the world.

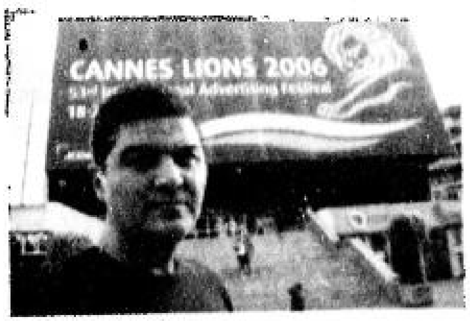
The event concept — which emanated from an idea of Coca-Cola's director for public affairs JB Baylon — culminated in some 2,000 participants working up a sweat at Market! Market!'s activity area. The proposition was simple: for every calorie burned, the Coca-Cola Company will donate one peso to charity. This single-day event generated free publicity and media coverage estimated at P6.2 million in value — proving Baylon's point that "activation has a significant role in brand communication, and we recognize that."

Evidently, so does Cannes. The Promo Lions Category, which recognizes outstanding promotion and event marketing campaigns across the globe, was a new feature in this year's festival. "Traditionally, promos and events are not regarded as an arena for award-winning work. Good to see that prestigious competitions like Cannes are helping change that mindset," says 141 Worldwide executive creative director Cats Guerrero, who shares credits on this campaign with associate creative director Myra Carabeo, art director Jorge Mata, and writers Kina Jauregui and Macky Mina.

The campaign logistics were left in the capable hands of 141 Worldwide business directors Paul Perez and Arvin Sanchez, account managers Agnes Tejada and Gina Pastor, print producer Peachy Espinosa and project manager Christine Yuson, and all under the uncompromising guidance of Coca-Cola's community relations manager Cindy Lim.

HAVING fun. Leo Burnett's young creatives team of Cey Enriquez and JP Cuison with Tommy the Clown, an offshoot of Saatchi & Saatchi's showcase.

WAITING to attend the Cannes sessions, Jake Tesoro of TBWA\SMP, Alex Syfu of DM9Jayme/Syfu and Merlee Jayme of DM9Jayme/Syfu.



PHILIPPINES jury rep in this year's Cannes Radio Lions, David Guerrero, chair and chief creative officer of BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

Handling your credit cards

By Girlie Navarro
Contributor

"I HAVE 12 CREDIT CARDS and have outstanding balances on each. I don't think I can pay this month. What do I do?"

While this credit card user may be on the extreme side, her case highlights how easy it is today to decorate your wallet with many credit cards—then just as easily get into trouble. The ease of getting one is due to all the credit card companies engaging in stiff competition, resulting in approvals at income of as low as P10,000 a month.

Overall, Filipinos have managed their cards in stride, with 80 percent of total credit card debts remaining current. The overdue balance of P14 billion however is a cause for concern, because if we divide that amount into the average individual overdue balance, we realize hundreds of thousands of credit card holders are in trouble. As anyone knows, a financial problem is never a financial problem alone—the crisis spills over into all other aspects of a debtor's life. Relationships falter as couples fight over money; anxiety, self-doubt and depression kick in; work and social skills suffer, just to mention a few. Yet responsible credit card handling doesn't demand that much effort.

One, at the most, two, credit cards will be enough to keep you meet the occasional emergency while keeping your total annual fee—which averages P2,000 across the industry—low. Our real-life example above is set back P24,000 a year on annual fees—even before making a single purchase. And with just one or two cards, their combined credit limit provides a manageable ceiling on how far you can get in debt.

With many cards of individual credit limits, you invite trouble at a level well beyond your personal debt limit.

When shopping, only charge items you have budgeted your cash for. If you can't pay for the items in cash, then you probably can't afford them yet. You complain about high price. Then you pay them, and with interest? Before you charge an item, determine where the payment will come from. If you can't find a concrete answer, think twice about the purchase. Maintaining a lifestyle you can't afford will always end in grief.

Be prompt with payments and ideally, pay in full. You maintain a clean slate and avoid the temptation of using the available cash for something else.

In fact, as most ATM accounts allow credit card payments, settle your charged purchase the next day. That's peace of mind in less than five minutes.

Keep in mind these few points and you can look forward to healthy and peaceful financial well-being. The caller we were discussing however, is already in trouble, and must quickly work out how to adjust her finances to free up a debt repayment budget. Then she has to go to the credit card companies—immediately—and negotiate a mutually acceptable repayment plan. She will definitely have to make serious cutbacks on just about everything she spends for, and may even have to sell some assets to settle her debts—all of which, sadly, could have been avoided in the first place.

(The author is the designer and developer of the personal finance program "All You Need to Manage Your Money Today.")

Putting a positive spin to loans

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN YOU THINK of ads enticing people to borrow, what visuals do you see?

Usually it is a man or a woman with knitted brows, a worried look on their faces and in total, depicting a situation no one wants to be in.

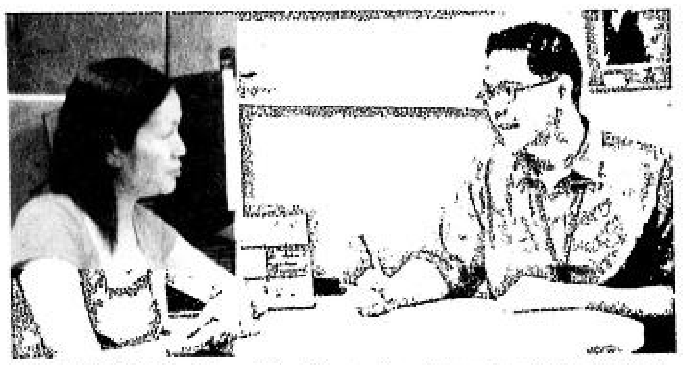
CitiFinancial Corp., the personal loan arm of the Citigroup, is tackling a new strategy to entice people to borrow.

Citifinancial marketing director Ma. Amor T. Balagtas and Citibank, N.A assistant vice president for public relations and communications Aneth Ng-Lim say they are putting a positive spin to credit.

Recently launched ads show a couple with the woman about to give birth, a girl with a new mobile phone, a lady sunbathing in Boracay.

"Our goal is personal loans for the improvement of lives," says Lim.

The message is you don't have to miss out on milestones because you do not have money. You can always borrow.


CITIFINANCIAL officer doing face to face interview with borrower.

As part of the worldwide acquisitions and mergers which Citibank went through several years ago, creating the Citigroup, the personal loan arm was created.

The goal is to make Citifinancial a "neighborhood lending company," according to Balagtas, with its current 11 branches located in mostly residential areas. Balagtas says plans are afoot to open six more branches this year, and 10 next year—all near subdivisions.

Citifinancial further marks the Citigroup's continuing expansion into a wider market. In the past, Citibank, the flagship of the group was known more as a rich man's bank. Over the past years, it adapted to the changing market and targeted the middle-income group with an aggressive credit card campaign.

BALAGTAS

Citifinancial taps a lower market segment by offering loans of P15,000 to P400,000 payable in 18 to 36 months.

The target market for Citifinancial are working people and small entrepreneurs—usually silver credit card holders.

A good credit card record is almost a guarantee that one will get a loan approval.

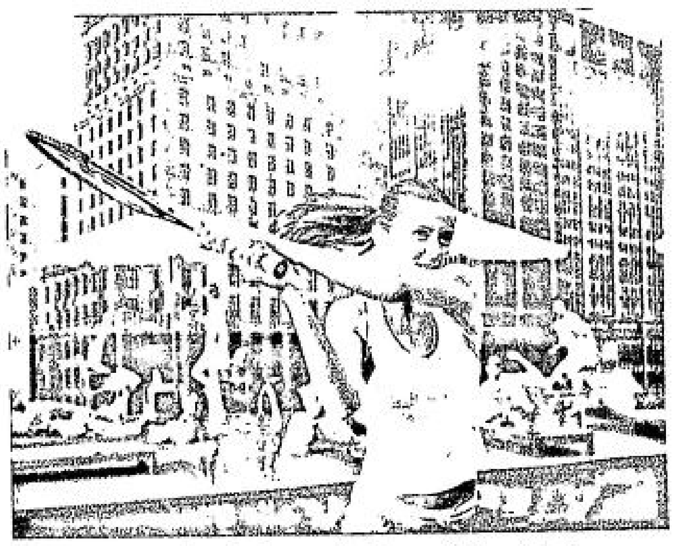
Balagtas says Citifinancial makes it a point to meet its customers face to face. They do an analysis of the borrower's financial state with the client to help arrive at a loan amount that he can pay within his financial state.

Since the target borrowers are working people, Balagtas says Citifinancial offices close beyond 6:30 p.m.

Initial offerings of Citifinancial are personal loans and appliance loans but they are already looking at car and housing loans.

Phone firm unveils global marketing campaign

SONY ERICSSON kicked off its global marketing campaign for the new Cyber-shot™ phone with the launch of "Never Miss a Shot," an action-packed TV commercial starring top female tennis players Ana Ivanovic and Daniela Hantuchova. The commercial has gone "live" online at www.nevermissashot.com and will be supported by an integrated global press and print campaign, point-of-sale, digital and viral marketing activities.


DANIELA Hantuchova is featured in the new Cybershot ad.

"Never Miss a Shot" focuses on a tennis match across the rooftops and skyscrapers between Ana and Daniela.

The game begins when a sunbathing Daniela hears a tennis ball being hit by Ana on an adjacent rooftop; she immediately leaps up from her sun bed, grabs her racket and runs to return the ball, the match begins and a dramatic rally unfolds. The city's "roof-scape" becomes the girls' tennis court. A man in a nearby office block talking on his Sony Ericsson Cyber-shot™ phone looks out of the window to see Daniela leaping down from the building above; he captures a dramatic image with one click of his phone. The advanced Cyber-shot™ camera module in the phone lets him get the perfect picture and his colleague cannot believe he has missed out on such an amazing photo opportunity.

"Never Miss a Shot" will be broadcast in 60-, 30-, 20-, 15- and 10-second ad bursts. The commercial, breaking on TV first in Hong Kong, will then roll out worldwide over the next three months.

"The freedom to be totally mobile, constantly in-touch and be able to take and share quality pictures anytime, anywhere is what the new Sony Ericsson Cyber-shot™ phone is all about," according to Dee Dutta, corporate vice president and head of marketing for Sony Ericsson.

Sony Ericsson's BestPic™ technology offers nine 3.2 megapixel pictures with one click of the shutter. The camera takes four pictures before and four after the captured image, with all nine captured images displayed as icons on screen so users can scroll through the images and save the best one.

www.nevermissashot.com also offers consumers a variety of interactive options including a specially designed "Pong" tennis game where players can choose to be Ana or Daniela and play their own rooftop tennis match.

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ALL-AMERICAN
FREEDOM FEST

www.ford.com.ph

Promo until July 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1484, series of 2006.

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Beauty Contributing Editor
Ria Prieto-Francisco

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Five fab new looks

The Body Shop relaunched its entire makeup line by conjuring new shades and combinations

MAKEOVER 911
Kinny Salas

AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 P.M. AT THE Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong, The Body Shop wowed the international press with the re-launch of its entire makeup line.

Not only does the makeup line have this new classy packaging that can compete with other prestigious brands, it has also retained its reasonable price tag, maintained its high quality in terms of performance and texture, and got celebrity makeup artist Chase Aston to come up with five new looks that everyone could wear.

As soon as the models came out, I knew what the angle of this column would be—the five new makeup looks for every occasion, complete with the actual product shades the models used. Please note that foundation and concealer shades are not specified because it is important for you to have your personal match for these products.

9-to-5. Without having to really think about it, I already know that this look would be the most popular choice for the Philippine market due to our love for the nude/natural appearance. This is the most basic face designed for the office, where one has to look polished and professional without being overly done up.

On model: All in One face base, P1,195; Lightening Touch concealer, P795; Lip and Cheek Stain 01: Rose Pink, P695; Cream Eye Colour 02: Dusk Pink, P595; Eye Colour 37 Pink Champagne and 13 Vanilla Cream, P550 each; Brow and Lash gel, P550; Eye Definer 02 Rich Brown, P450; Define and Lengthen Mascara 02 Brown, P695; Liquid Lip Colour 04 Blush Pink, P650.

Hot date. Smoky and seductive! This would have to be the second most popular look in the Philippines. After all, this is the look we invariably adapt for evenings—more defined eye and added shimmer for cheeks and lips.

On model: Moisture Foundation, Lightening Touch; Shimmer Waves 02: Blush, P1,195; Eye Colours in 08 Golden Paprika, 12 Calico, 39 Soft Black, 32 Chocolate, at P550 each; Liquid Eyeliner 01 Black, P650; Super Volume Mascara 01 Black, P695; Sheer Lip Shine 01 Sheer Pink, P695; High Shine Lip treatment 01 Pink Cream, P595.

Red carpet. Dramatic and mysterious, this look is for the celebrity-obsessed out there like me: Chase actually used this look on his Hollywood clientele, among them Cameron Diaz, Heidi Klum, Britney Spears and Teri Hatcher. I personally feel that Asian women are the natural canvas for this style, as our dark hair and eyes can set off smoky eyes and red lips effortlessly. This look actually rekindled my dormant love for red lipstick, so expect to see me wearing TBS' Lip Colour 22 Garnet (P650) from September onwards.

TBS Garnet is the perfect rich deep red for any skin tone. It has the perfect blend of blue and brown undertones for that complementary drama. No pink or orange taint here.

On model: Ultra Smooth foundation, P1,195; Ultra Smooth Liquid Concealer, P695; Bronzing Powder 01, P995; Shimmer Waves 01 Bronze; Cream Eye Colour 05 Mink and 01 Starry Silver; Eye Colour 20 Slate, P550; Liquid Eyeliner 01 Black; Super Volume Mascara; Brow and Liner Kit, P895; Lip Colour 22 Garnet.

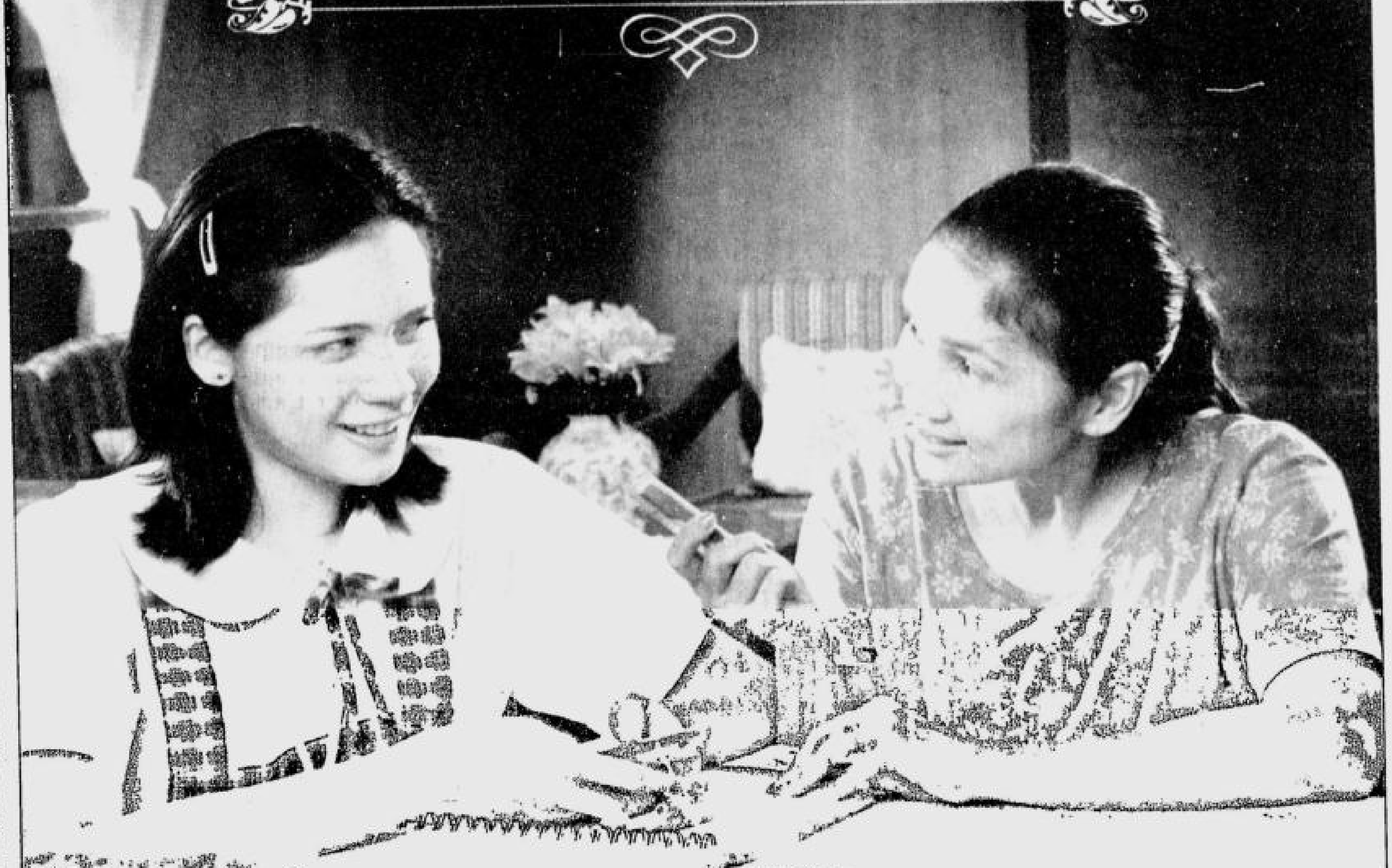
FIVE/ C4

What's hot for Fall!

Rocha

SMOKY eyes

Sabi ni nanay
"Walang libre sa mundo. Pero pag nag-download ka meron."



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RINGTONES

TITLE	ARTIST	MONO	POLY
Allpin	Shamrock	C2 allpin	C5 allpin
Beauty and Madness	Fra Lippo Lippi	C1 beauty	C4 beauty
Pwede ba	Soapdish	E3 pweduba	E6 pweduba
Narda	Kamikaze	E2 narda	E5 narda
I Believe in Love	Jed Madela	D1 believe	D2 believe
Pinoy Ako (Pinoy Big Brother)	Orange and Lemons	A2 pinoyako	A5 pinoyako
The Ordertaker	Parokya ni Edgar	A2 ordertaker	A5 ordertaker
High	Barbie Almalbis	D1 high	D2 high
When I See You Smile	Kris Lawrence	C3 smile	C6 smile
Peng Yu (Kaibigan)	Kim Chiu & MYMP	E1 kaibigan	E4 kaibigan
My Girl	Sam Milby	A3 mygirl	A6 mygirl
Majika	Kitchie Nadal	D1 majika	D2 majika

LOGOS
B1 SNAKE2
B1 FISHBONE2
B1 PIGGY
B1 BATSOY
B1 BUGS

PICTURE MESSAGE
B2 RELAXKALANG
B2 PURRFECT
B2 INLOVE
B2 MWAH
B2 SHAKEIT

MMS WALLPAPER
B3 DISPIN
B3 CUTEDEVIL
B3 BEACHEGGIE
B3 COULDOG
B3 BOYFRIEND

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*To begin weekly downloads, text <keyword> ON and send to 5355, P15.00/download.
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*Five (5) free no expiry texts will be credited to the subscriber within 24 hours after receipt of content.
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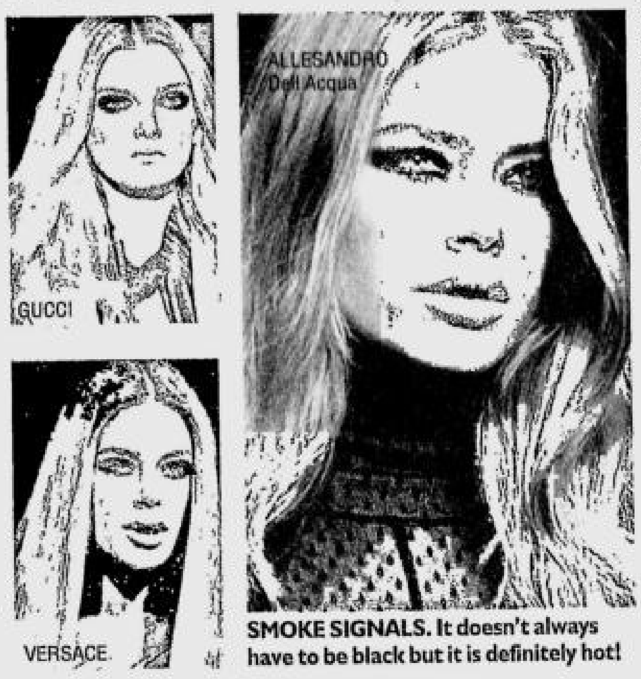
Available through the SMART Prepaid Network:

[illegible]
See flyers for more details. Promo runs from July 9 to September 9, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1840. Series of 2006.

May libre kang text sa bawat download!

SMART TAYO



SMOKE SIGNALS. It doesn't always have to be black but it is definitely hot!

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PRADA
ALBERTA Ferretti

TRESS SETTING. An easy loose 'do or bangin' bangs to frame your face is best.

CHLOE
BALENCIAGA
ALEXANDER
Mc Queen

BOLD AND BARE. Celebrating good skin with hardly anything on it

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VALENTINO
VALENTINO

RED RAGE. The best and fastest arsenal to try.

LANVIN
CHANEL
ROBERTO Cavalli

BROW RAISER. Keep it the way it should be... it makes you look younger anyway.

Falling in love with Fall

There is such a wide variety of looks this season that there's definitely one that would be perfect for any girl

EXCITING! I LOVE THE 2006 FALL BEAUTY trends. Why? Because they are so easy to do and very low-maintenance.

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

Seriously, I don't think anyone even has to buy anything new to follow the trends, unless some products need to be replenished. Goodbye to the hair iron that was the fastest way to damage hair. Not that I was any good at it, anyway, since I was so afraid of burning my ear.

There is such a wide variety of looks this season that there's definitely one that would be perfect for any girl. I personally pick the eyeliner! I've always loved the drama it brings, and now it's the "in" look to have. Lucky me!

Pick the look you want and get gorgeous!

If there is one trend that will never go out of style, it is having good skin. I wish I had good skin. For some unknown reason, I've developed some bumps all over my face. Though they are small, my face is now rough.

I went to a dermatologist (something I didn't have the need to do before), and she told me my skin was dry, and that I should get a Diamond Peel. A friend of mine says the procedure is good since it will take away all my dead skin cells. Well, that's actually what the derma told me, too. But I guess knowing that I have to have something done, something I've not resorted to before, actually depresses me.

So I figure I will look for an extremely potent moisturizer and use an exfoliating facial wash. I hope it works. Yes, I'm in denial. But I am optimistic. Not that I'm against technology, but I believe some procedures can wait... except anti-aging moisturizers, which aren't a procedure anyway but a product.

To make me feel better, or to put things into perspective, my friend told me about a girl she knew who had a lot of zits, not because she didn't take care of her skin but because of hormonal change. Truth is, I then began to thank God for my skin "issues" and asked Him politely not to allow anything else to go wrong with my skin. In return, I vowed to try and help people who get zits look for a cure.

I asked help from my friend Robby and he told me about Mario Badescu. And since I personally have never used any of its products, I asked for testimonials. As a consumer and a writer who gets lots of products with pictures of models allegedly using the products, I somehow would rather hear it from a client than from the brand's marketing people. I guess it all stems from my being conscious of where my money goes. Money doesn't grow on trees, after all.

Here are four real-life stories from Mario Badescu users.

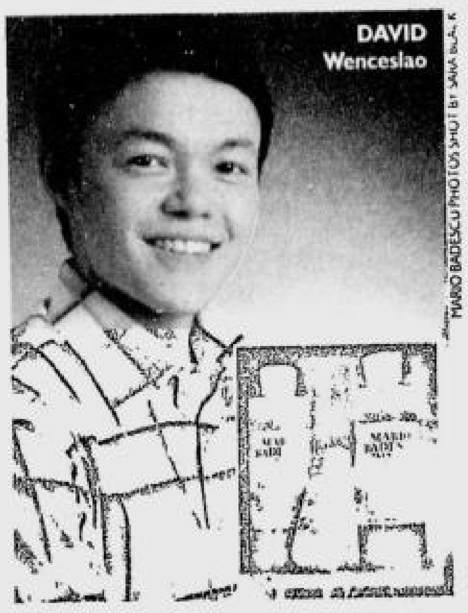
Victoria Toda, student

VICTORIA
Toda

Victoria Toda is a student taking up Massage Therapy in Washington, DC. You may think that studying in America is a vacation, but her life is anything but relaxed. With school pressures and lack of sleep, Victoria's problem has always been acne. Plus, traveling from Washington's cold weather to the Philippines' humid weather wreaks havoc on her face. Which is why Mario Badescu is essential to keeping her face clear.

Victoria swears by Mario Badescu's special Healing Powder, Buttering Lotion and Facial Spray. Just recently, she went home to the Philippines and immediately her face reacted to the change of weather.

"The weird weather changes drove my skin crazy! I could feel the pimples slowly growing and it was humiliating. Luckily I had my special Mario Badescu Buttering Lotion and Special Healing Powder. My face was back to flawless in just two days."



MARIO BADESCU PHOTOS SHOT BY SARA BLACK

David Wenceslao, senior marketing manager

David Wenceslao is a senior marketing manager for his family's outsourcing company. His work involves handling the marketing requirements for several of the family companies, conceptualizing job ads and collaterals for job fairs. Constant deadlines and unavoidable late nights are typical.

"I usually like working late, because that's when it's quiet in the office, and that's when I get to think and let my creative juices flow. My skin's always been oily and acne-prone, so I used to panic before when I get breakouts. It was embarrassing to meet clients. But since using Mario Badescu, my breakouts have been manageable and close to none."

David's daily regimen includes the Botanical Facial Gel, Special Cucumber Lotion and Oil-free Moisturizer.

Cecile Adriatico, athlete

Cecile Adriatico, a taekwondo athlete and former member of the Philippine national team, had acne problems on her body. Practicing several hours every day, sweat would clog the pores of her body, especially on her chest and back.

"Taekwondo is a tough sport. Being in the national team, we have to practice for hours especially when competitions are coming up. I'd notice before that there were so many

FALLING/ C4

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LA VIE

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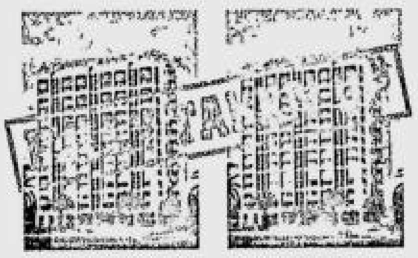
ALDER
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FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

[illegible] looks

From page C1

The next two looks are a bit tricky and will encounter resistance from most women.

Jet-set. Glowing, gorgeous, sun-kissed and fabulous, though it may encounter resistance due to the use of blue eye shadow for day and nighttime. Still, it can work on Asian women. The live model was a pretty Oriental girl named Tamanny and Chase applied the color on her small eyes using brushes and his fingers, and she looked fab afterwards.

Do not be so strict in following the colors stated, because it follows that less pale women would need darker blues. The rest of the face should remain sheer and natural as the eyes are the focus. I suggest you mix in browns with the blues.

On model: Sheer Sun Gel, P895; Tinted Glow Enhancer, P795; Lightening Touch; Cheek Blush 04 Golden Pink, P695; Bronzing Powder; Shimmer Waves 01 Bronze; Cream Eye Colour in Blueberry, P595; Eye Colours 33 Aquamarine and 31 Peacock Green; Waterproof Mascara 01 Black; High shine Lip in Bronze Beam, P595.

Party. Edgy and daring, but heavier than what Filipinas are used to. This look may overwhelm the cautious and make them feel over-the-top even if used strictly for evenings.

On model: All in One face base; Concealer, P595; Lip and Cheek Stain; Brilliance Powder 02 Shimmer Gold, P1,195; Liquid eyeliner Black; Cream Eye Colour in 03 Arctic Ivy; Eye Shimmer 02 Gold, P550; Super Volume Mascara; Hi Shine Lip in Bronze Beam.

Brilliance powder, on the other hand, can be applied everywhere—face, body, and hair.

The makeup will be available by September, but this early, you can look through your personal makeup stash to see what colors you already have. Make a detailed list of what you can add, so you won't go broke buying the whole store when the collection arrives, and end up with wasted doubles.

San Miguel
SUPER DRY
BRING BACK LIFE
TRENDSPOTTING
DEFINITION 80'S PARTY SERIES
FEATURING
MOJOFLY
ORANGE & LEMONS
SESSION ROAD
AND
THE DAWN
18

Falling...

From page C2

whiteheads on my chest and back. It was frustrating. I heard about Mario Badescu's Special Cleansing Lotion 'O' that was designed specifically for chest and back acne, and in less than a week, my back and chest were clear. Badescu 'kicked' my acne away."

Aside from the Special cleansing Lotion "O," Cecile uses the Enzyme Cleansing Gel and Drying Cream.

CECILE Adriatico

WILL Devaughn

Will Devaughn, model

Will Devaughn is a professional model. His success in the modeling industry relies heavily on a clear complexion. In such a competitive career, his face needs to be glowing and flawless always for clients.

Because his schedule is erratic, his skin also gets confused and is prone to breakouts.

"With the makeup they put on me in every shoot, I always make sure I wash my face afterwards. It's hard when I have a photo shoot the next day at 9 a.m. and I've been up the whole night for another shoot. With Mario Badescu, I don't have to worry. I just wash my face with the Glycolic Foaming Cleanser and put Healing Cream afterwards. I can get some snooze time without being worried about a pimple coming up."

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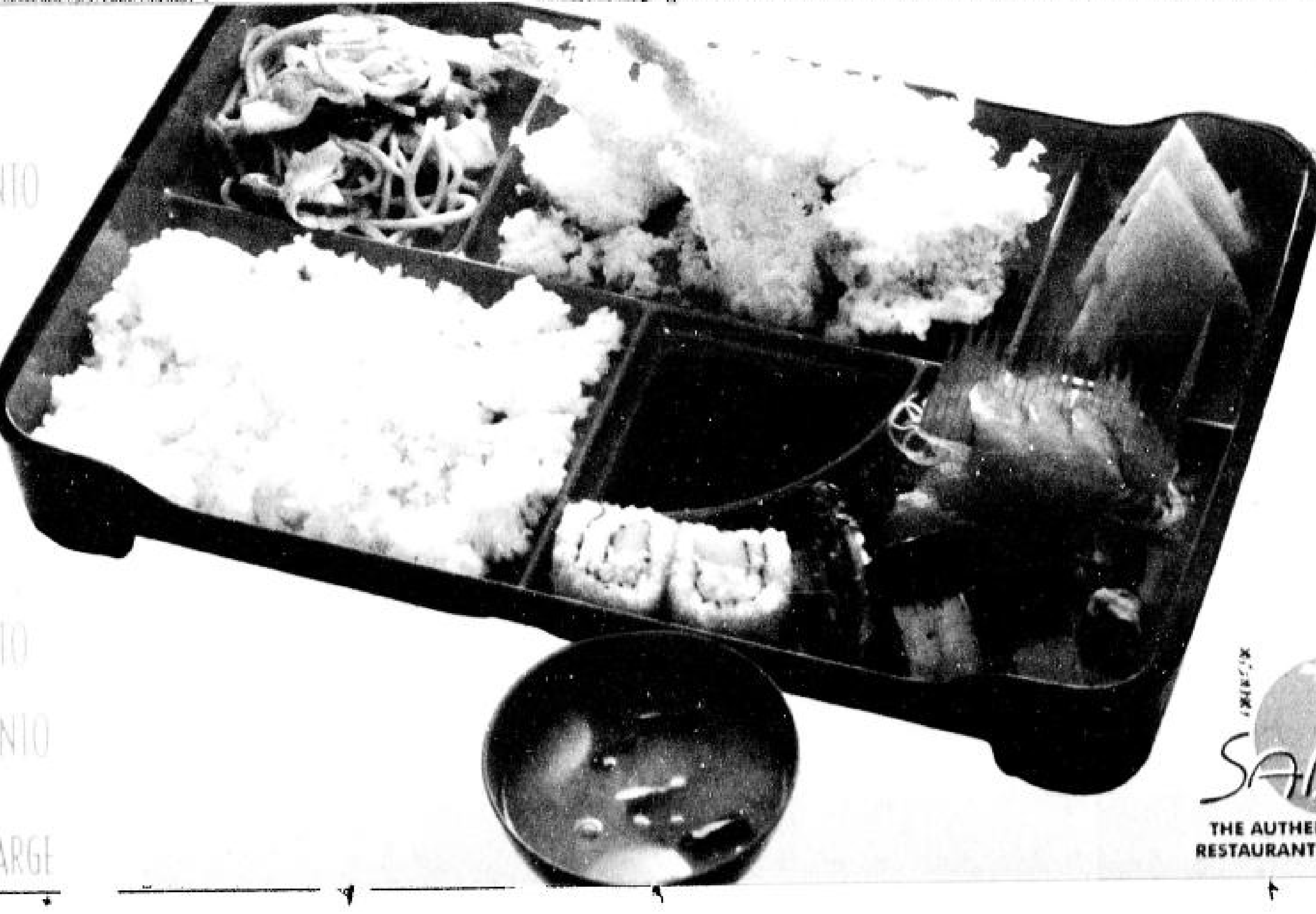

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SAISAKI
THE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE
RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

Five fab new looks

From page C1

The next two looks are a bit tricky and will encounter resistance from most women.

Jet-set. Glowing, gorgeous, sun-kissed and fabulous, though it may encounter resistance due to the use of blue eye shadow for day and nighttime. Still, it can work on Asian women. The live model was a pretty Oriental girl named Tamanny and Chase applied the color on her small eyes using brushes and his fingers, and she looked fab afterwards.

Do not be so strict in following the colors stated, because it follows that less pale women would need darker blues. The rest of the face should remain sheer and natural as the eyes are the focus. I suggest you mix in browns with the blues.

On model: Sheer Sun Gel, P895; Tinted Glow Enhancer, P795; Lightening Touch; Cheek Blush 04 Golden Pink, P695; Bronzing Powder; Shimmer Waves 01 Bronze; Cream Eye Colour in Blueberry, P595; Eye Colours 33 Aquamarine and 31 Peacock Green; Waterproof Mascara 01 Black; High shine Lip in Bronze Beam, P595.

Party. Edgy and daring, but heavier than what Filipinas are used to. This look may overwhelm the cautious and make them feel over-the-top even if used strictly for evenings.

On model: All in One face base; Concealer, P595; Lip and Cheek Stain; Brilliance Powder 02 Shimmer Gold, P1,195; Liquid eyeliner Black; Cream Eye Colour in 03 Arctic Ivy; Eye Shimmer 02 Gold, P550; Super Volume Mascara; Hi Shine Lip in Bronze Beam.

Brilliance powder, on the other hand, can be applied everywhere—face, body, and hair.

The makeup will be available by September, but this early, you can look through your personal makeup stash to see what colors you already have. Make a detailed list of what you can add, so you won't go broke buying the whole store when the collection arrives, and end up with wasted doubles.

San Miguel
SUPER DRY
BRING BACK LIFE
TRENDSPOTTING
DEFINITION 80'S PARTY SERIES
FEATURING
MOJOFLY
ORANGE & LEMONS
SESSION ROAD
AND
THE DAWN
(18)

Falling...

From page C2

whiteheads on my chest and back. It was frustrating. I heard about Mario Badescu's Special Cleansing Lotion 'O' that was designed specifically for chest and back acne, and in less than a week, my back and chest were clear. Badescu 'kicked' my acne away."

Aside from the Special cleansing Lotion "O," Cecile uses the Enzyme Cleansing Gel and Drying Cream.

CECILE Adriatico

WILL Devaughn

Will Devaughn, model

Will Devaughn is a professional model. His success in the modeling industry relies heavily on a clear complexion. In such a competitive career, his face needs to be glowing and flawless always for clients.

Because his schedule is erratic, his skin also gets confused and is prone to breakouts.

"With the makeup they put on me in every shoot, I always make sure I wash my face afterwards. It's hard when I have a photo shoot the next day at 9 a.m. and I've been up the whole night for another shoot. With Mario Badescu, I don't have to worry. I just wash my face with the Glycolic Foaming Cleanser and put Healing Cream afterwards. I can get some snooze time without being worried about a pimple coming up."

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- KANI BACON BENTO
- BEEF TERIYAKI BENTO

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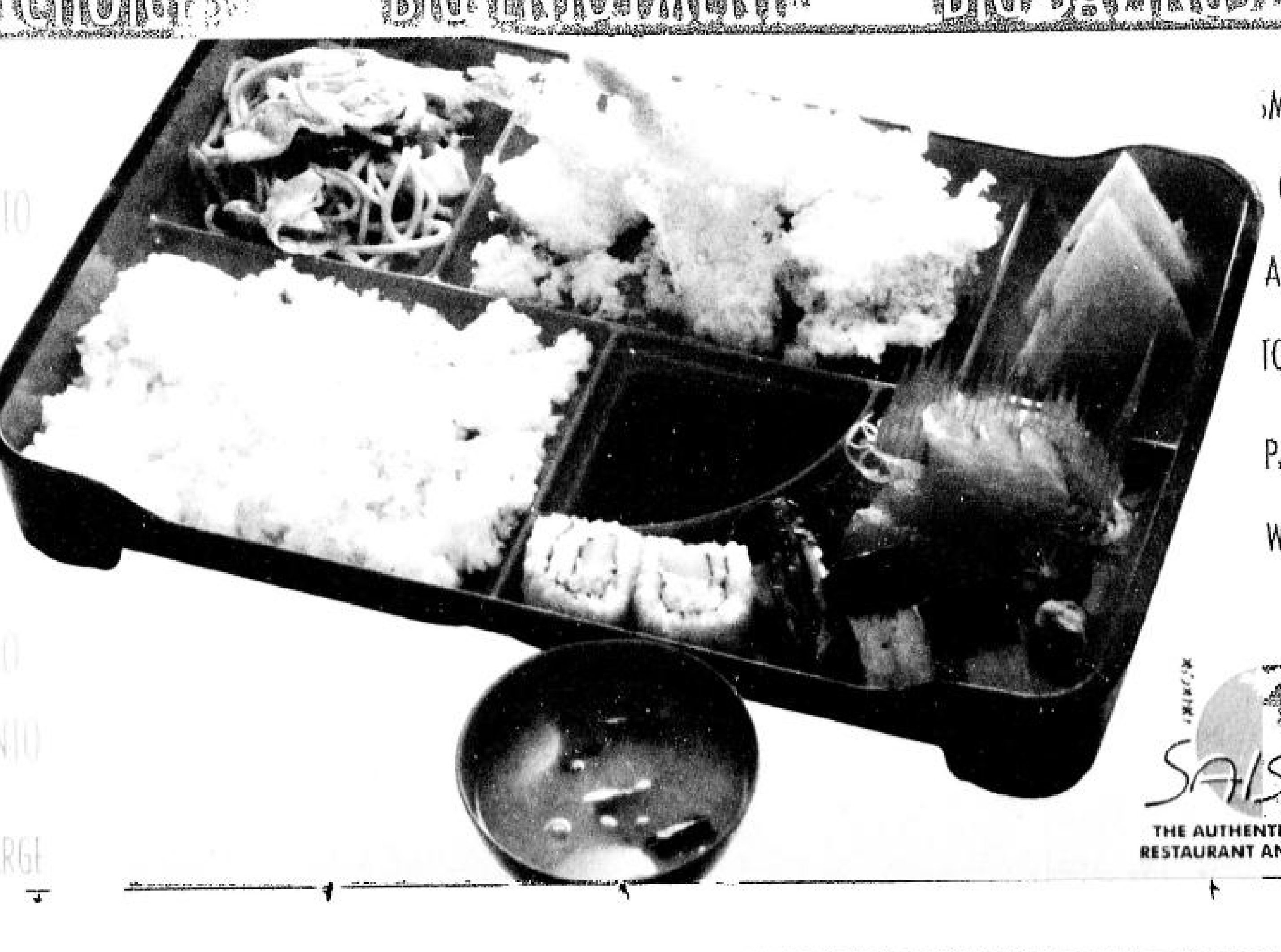

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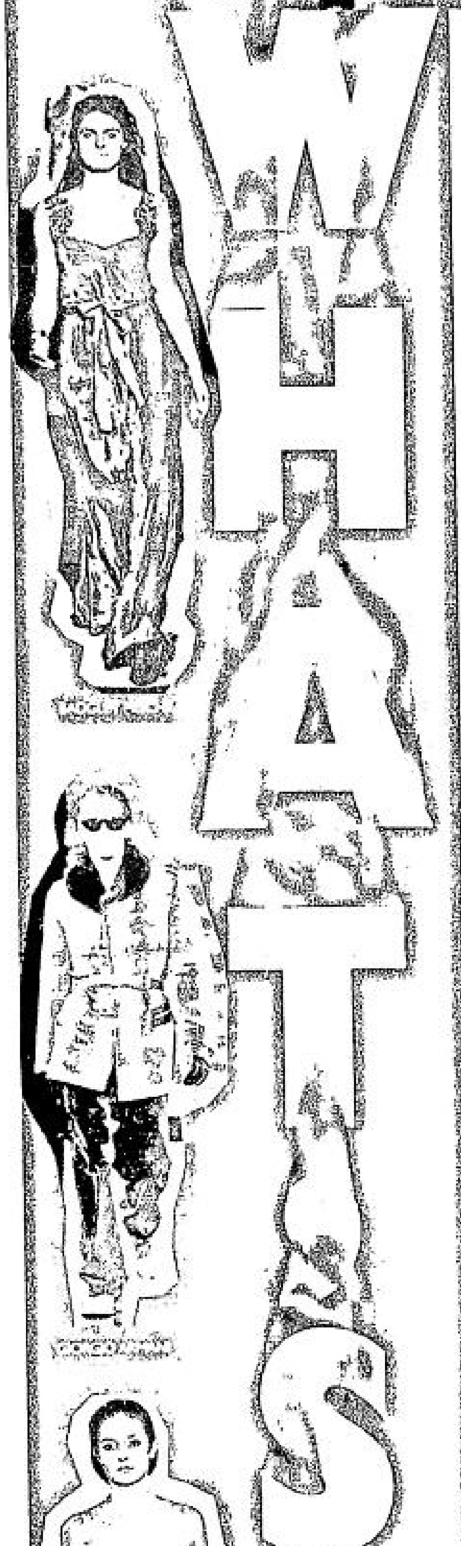
SAISAKI
THE AUTHENTIC JAPANESE RESTAURANT AND SUSHI BAR

Contributing editors
Jenni Epperson
and Apples Aboitiz-Sadhwani

LIFESTYLE
FASHION



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NARCISO RODRIGUEZ
VERA WANG
DONNA KARAN

Speak volumes
IT'S A FASHION blowout, ladies! Poufy and puffy silhouettes are this season's most exciting style. No more girdles or other belly/bottoms support. If you're afraid to look like a cotton ball, stick to separates such as bubble skirts or tent dresses.

DEREK LAM
GUCCI
VERSACE

Leggings/Tights
NO LONGER are these babies kept to the gym and ballet. They're the best trend ever, as they look absolutely fabulous on almost anyone of any age, and paired with anything.

PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

MICHAEL KORS
BALENCIAGA
DOLCE & GABBANA

Clash of the tartans
BOTTOMS, check. Tops, check. Dresses, check.

Fall on the rise

This season means welcoming unorthodox silhouettes, embracing the revival of grunge and piling on layers of clothes to cover your super-fab summer bod

DOLCE&GABANNA
MCQUEEN

Attention!
MILITARY jackets are this season's pea coat.

CHRISTIAN LACROIX
DOLCE & GABBANA

Empire state
AFTER summer's skintight silhouettes and abs-baring bathing suits, get a break and indulge on that chocolate souffle you've been daydreaming of.

YOU KNOW SUMmer is over when leggings have become the new shorts, wellies have taken over Havaianas and retailers are coming out with every imaginable style of LBDs.

This Fall (or in our case—rainfall) means welcoming unorthodox silhouettes, embracing the revival of grunge and piling on layers of clothes to cover your super-fab summer bod.

Sounds absurd? Well, if you're the type who's locked into one look, a creature of habit or simply not interested in fashion, you can put this paper down and read a book instead. Kidding!

Mabuhay!
I'M WITH THE DRUMMER

Jenni Epperson

It's been a long time since fashion has thrown a curve ball where all the basic rules of proportion and silhouette have been thrown out of the window. But that can be quite a liberating experience. Now you can finally eat dessert, and enjoy colors that are somber yet sweeter. Yes, monochromatic is magic.

To what do we owe this schizophrenic style? Well, I guess designers are just tired of looking at women dressed like Christmas trees (though it's really one of my favorite looks)—sparkly beaded dresses and gowns as bright as Christmas lights and chandelier earrings as big as Christmas tree ornaments.

Maybe this time, the focus is not on the glitzy rich but on the homeless hobo. Witness the wonder twins, Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, who piled their tiny frames with layers of oversized threads.

Fashion reflects life, so it's said, and with the world more fragile, people hungrier and life tougher, flash is inappropriate.

But in life, too, fashion has a role, Its role is to inspire, to express passion and creativity while at the same time creating an industry that many can benefit from—from salesladies to CEOs.

So in INQUIRER Fashion, while we give readers the season's best and latest styles, we also celebrate fashion that helps men and women feel good and more confident about themselves. Through makeovers, we showcase the works of artists such as photographers, stylists, models, graphic artists and makeup artists, and we scour the metro for the best buys to give bang for your buck.

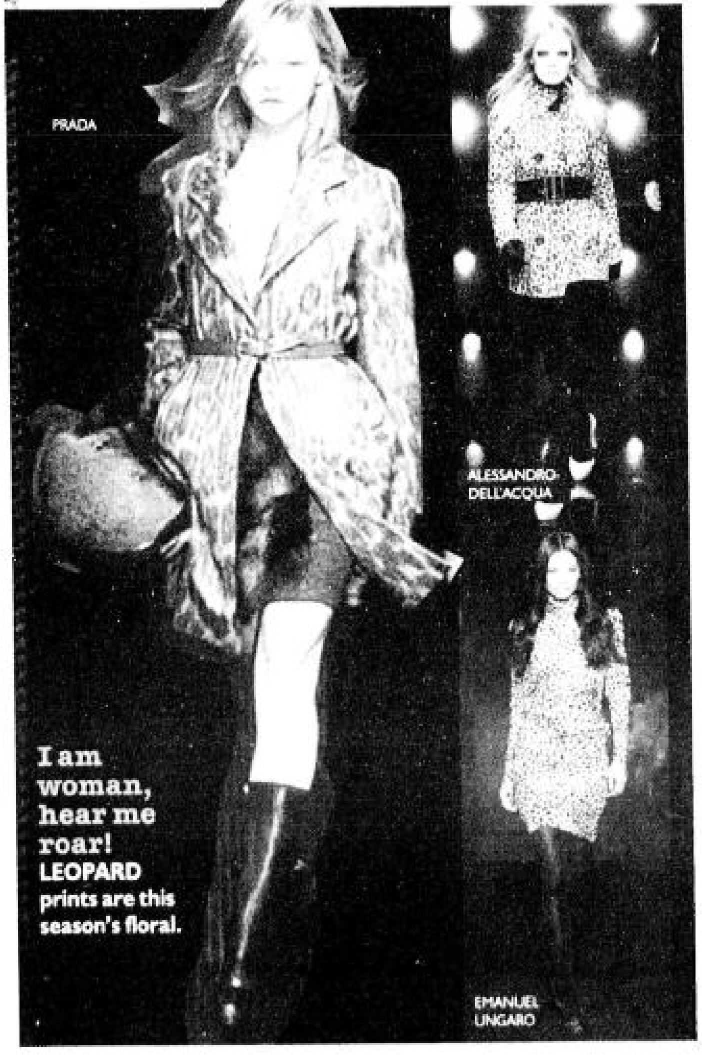
For Fall 2006, we've chosen the looks that best suit our weather and styles, and that you can easily play with. Toning down is key this season, but it doesn't mean you should be stuck with recycled plastic and Lycra. Fabrics such as rich velvet, exotic leather and hand-sewn beads and embroidery will add subtle glamour to your attire.

This season, the looks and temperature may have fallen a bit, but awareness is definitely on the rise.

E-mail the author at jfashion @inquirer.com.ph

BADGLEY MISCHKA
ANNA SUI

Velvet rope
GET YOUR dose of red-carpet glamour with velvet cocktail dresses and gown.



I am woman, hear me roar!
LEOPARD prints are this season's floral.

DEREK LAM
ELIE SAAB
VALENTINO

Black and white
EBONY and ivory are in perfect harmony this Fall.

ROBERTO CAVALLI
LOUIS VUITTON

Luxe no less!
RICH in details, fabrics with intricate embroidery, hand-sewn beads, brocade and mink will always have a place in every woman's closet and heart.

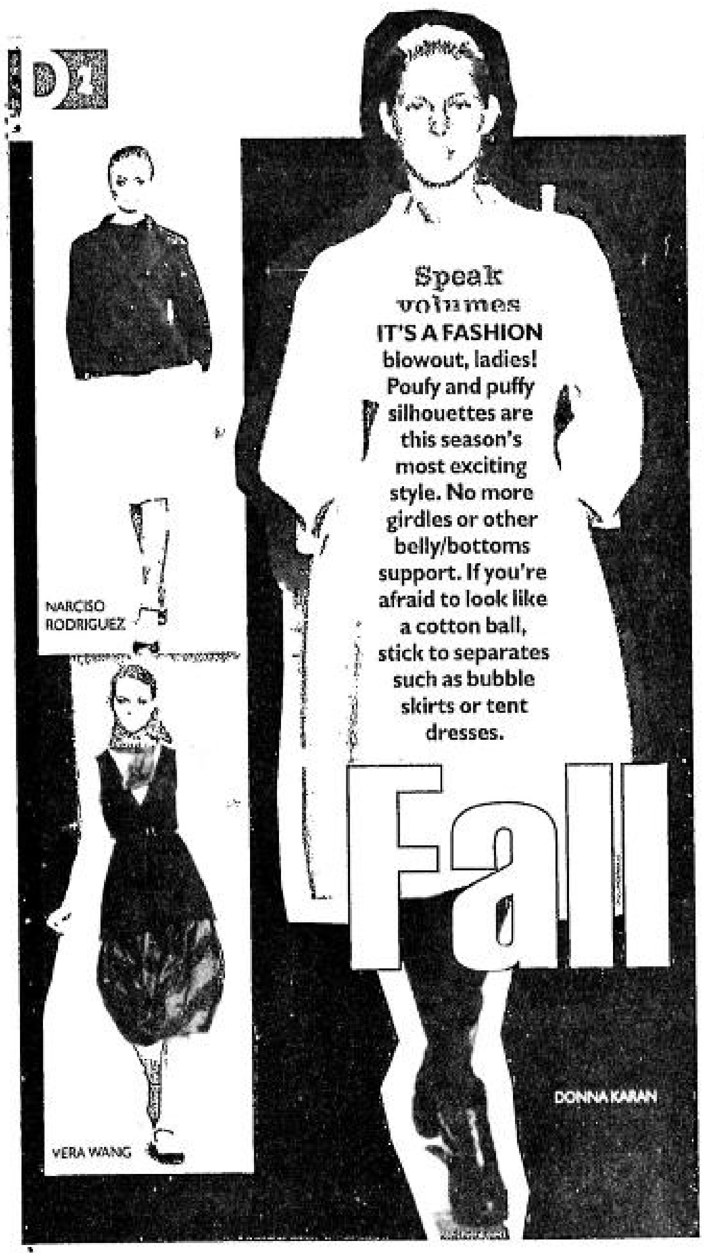
CHLOE
MARC JACOBS
BEHNAZ SARAFPOUR

Pile 'em up!
LAYERING in the tropics means using tissue-like fabrics such as cotton, chiffon and silk to add texture to one's outfit.

MIU MIU
GUCCI

Scarlet fever
THOUGH a red lipstick can be a woman's best accessory to hook a man, a red dress can end all competition.

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME



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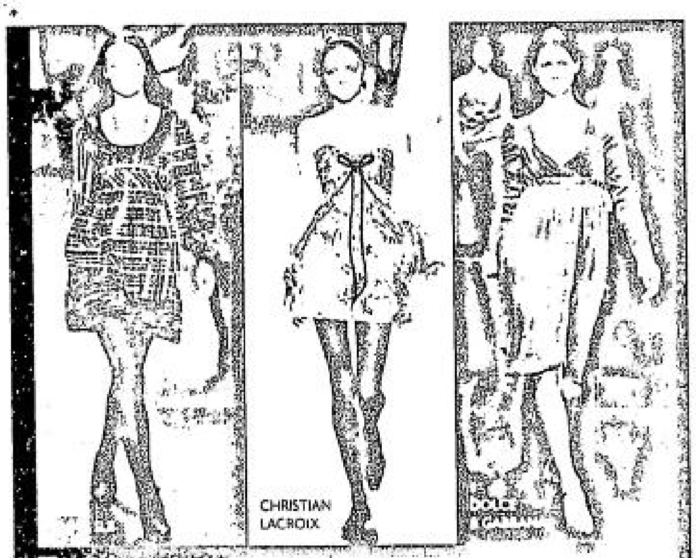

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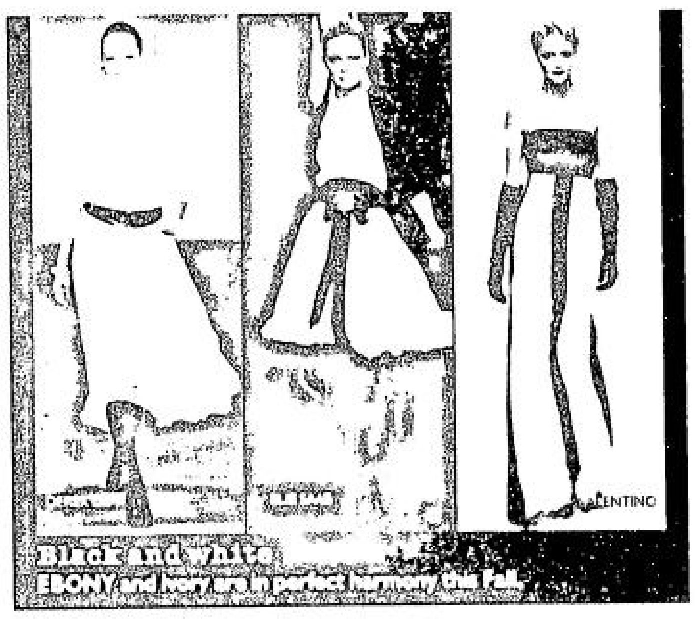

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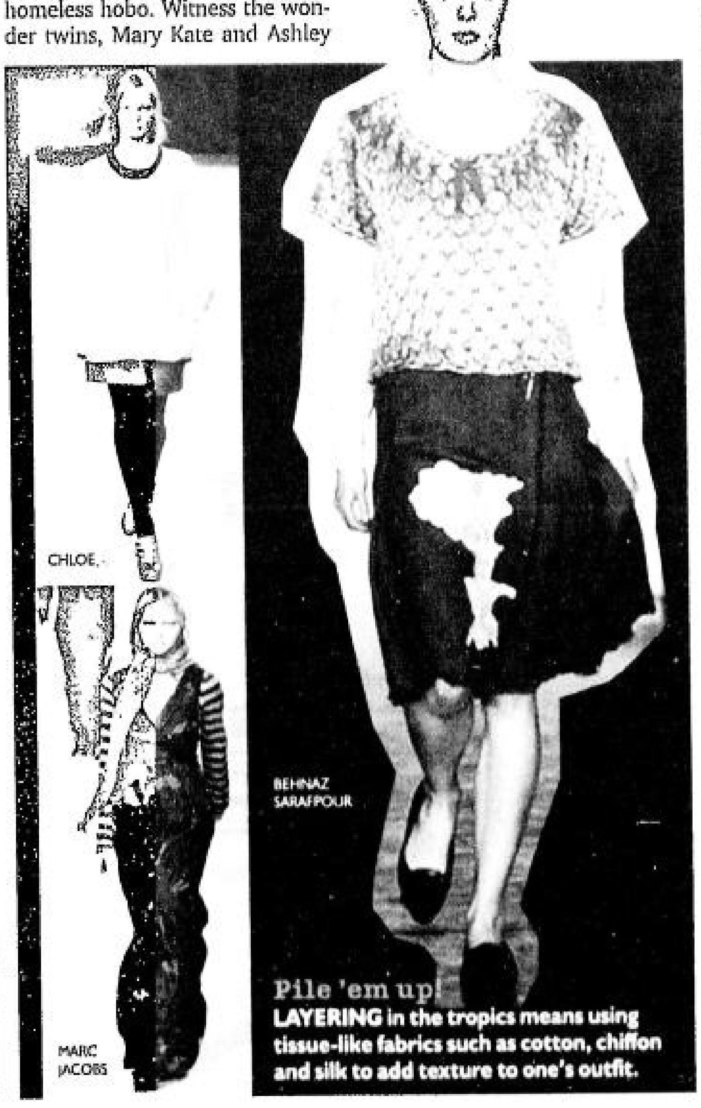

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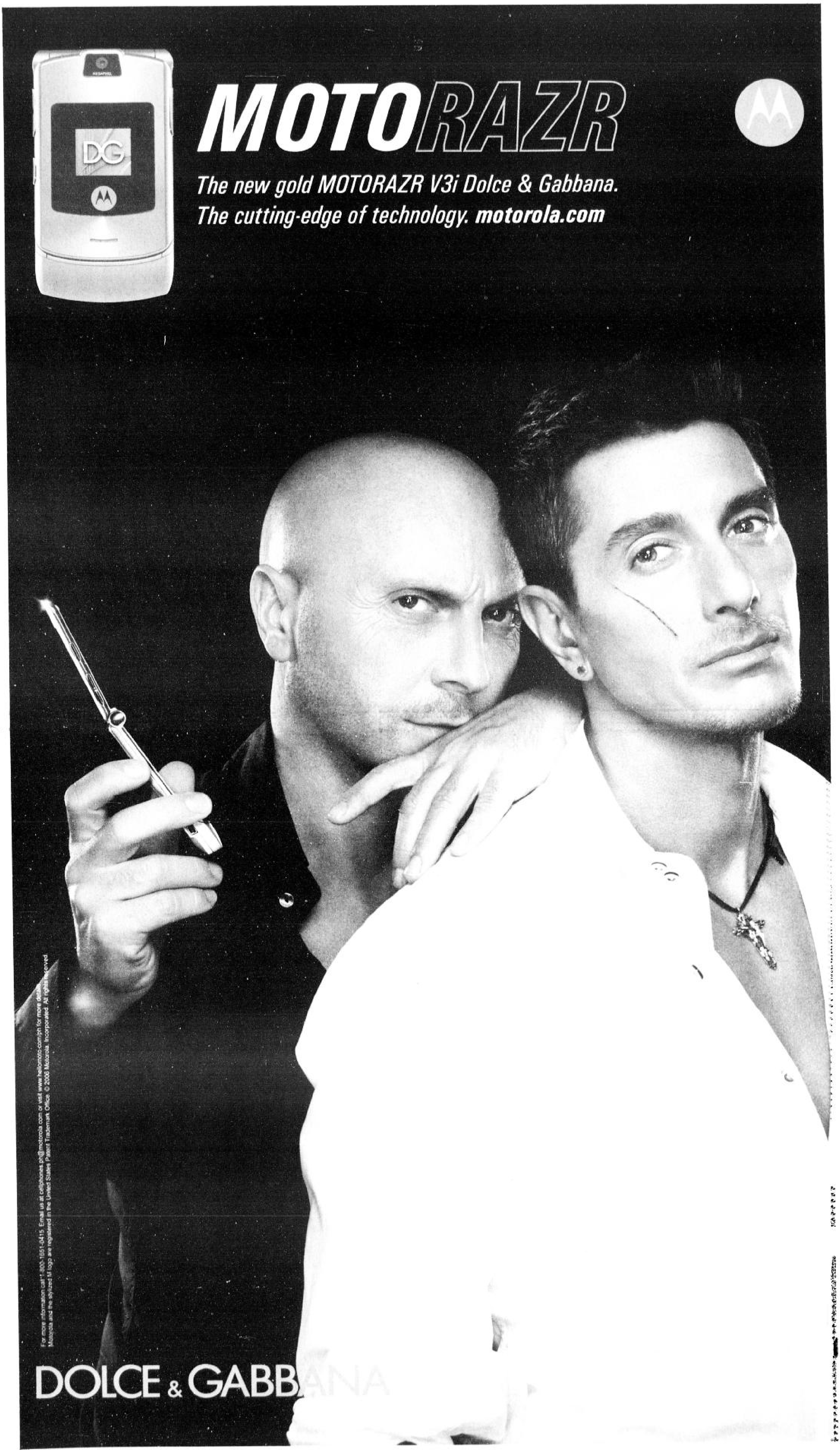
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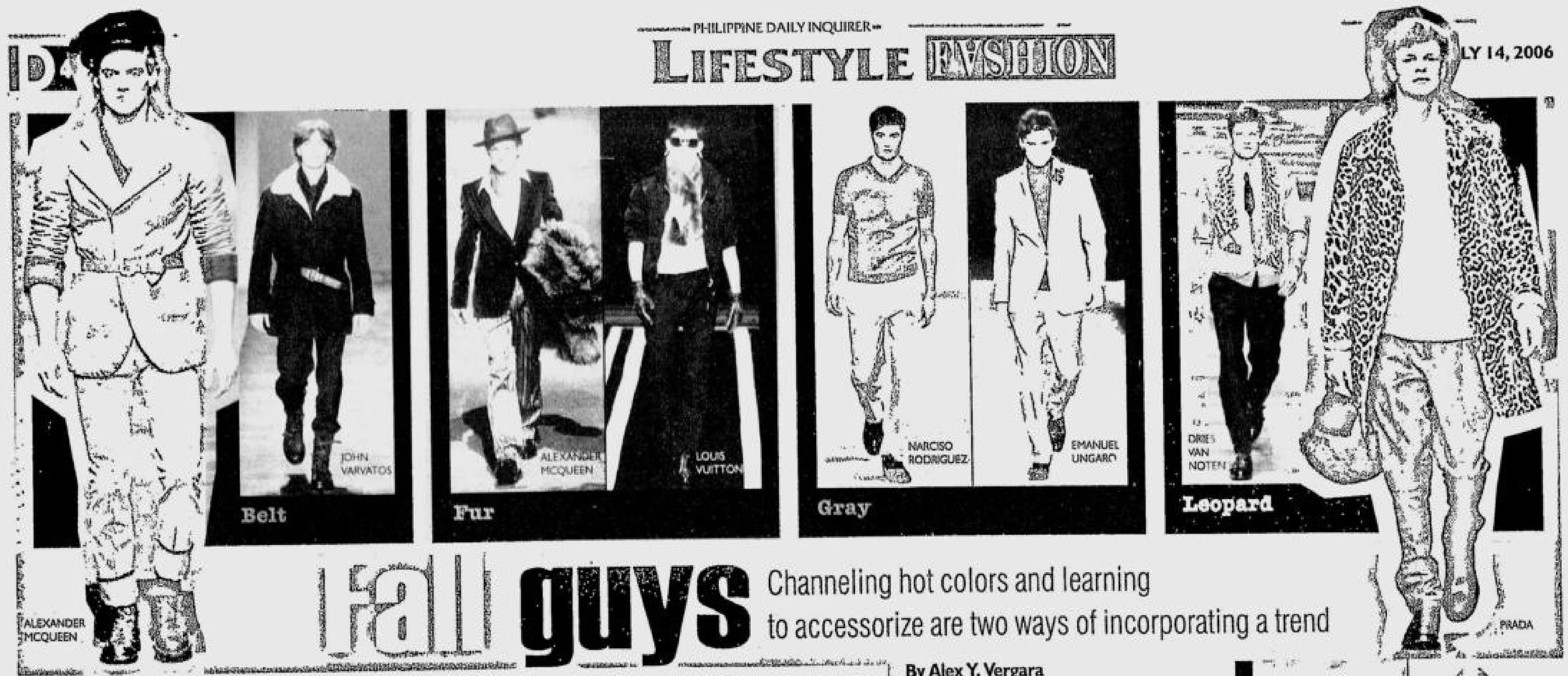


Fall guys

Channeling hot colors and learning to accessorize are two ways of incorporating a trend

By Alex Y. Vergara

DON'T LOOK NOW, GUYS, but fashion designers are channeling the "teen spirit" of the late Nirvana main man Kurt Cobain as summer makes way for Fall two months from now.

Together with holdovers from seasons past such as the military look, which seems bound to outlast even America's raging "war on terror," and animal prints, grunge fashion via plaid shirts worn over distressed tees, baggy jeans and military boots will be big this coming season.

Local designers such as Anthony Nocom and Joey Samson are one in saying that baggy pants with pleats will compete for space with the still popular slim trousers in every male fashionista's wardrobe. The two are also partial to the military or safari look via belted jackets with or without epaulets and in traditional colors such as fatigue and earth.

Apart from navy and gray, says Samson, the so-called black romantic will also be in vogue this Fall. The material of choice as far as accents go will still be leather in the form of various animal prints, adds Nocom. Belts in various sizes, materials and treatments will likewise make an impact.

Randy Ortiz, on the other hand, is placing his money on denim and knitted waistcoats (vests) and cropped jackets. While at it, he also advises the fashion-forward to invest in pea coats and hooded jackets made of denim, cotton twill or light wool.

It's also time to dust off those tweed pieces. In keeping with the season (at least in temperate countries), suits and jackets either in hounds tooth or Glenn plaid are bound to make a comeback.

To add a dash of color to an otherwise all-black or all-grey ensemble, Ortiz advises the young and the daring to wear red trousers. In his book, polka-dotted shirts paired with low-waist and slim-cut denim jeans are also ideal in chasing those autumn blues away. Stocking up on knitted shirts, pullovers and cardigans made of light materials won't hurt.

As opposed to Nocom, who encourages the tall and the slim to dare wear a double-breasted jacket, Ortiz is sticking to the tapered one- or four-buttoned variety with a narrow lapel for formal occasions.

Wishful thinking

Before the usual chorus of nitpickers accuses us anew of wishful thinking for promoting Fall fashion in a country where the season is either wet or dry, we've asked Samson and company to put these cold-weather trends in the proper context.

In short, how do you make these trends work without making the poor wearer faint from all that heat? How can the usually short and squat Pinoy get away with looks meant for the long and limber Caucasian?

"The key to adopting trends is to know what works or what's appropriate to your personality, work and lifestyle," says Samson. "The ability to pull things together is also important."

For instance, Samson adds, the simplest and easiest way to achieve the grunge look is by layering. Ortiz also subscribes to layering, but he always makes it a point to remind his clients based in the Philippines to limit their choice to cotton-based fabrics for obvious reasons.

"You may be the most daring dresser in town, but it still pays to wear age-appropriate clothes," says Ortiz. "Such trends as red pants, polka-dotted shirts, low-waist jeans and cropped jackets are geared for the younger set."

Size, or more precisely clothes with the right proportions, does matter. Nocom may be partial to double-breasted suits, but he admits that not all Filipinos can get away with them.

"Like most Asians, Filipinos generally look good in suits with modern silhouettes," he says, "but the double-breasted suit can be a bit tricky and unflattering, especially to the average Filipino's height and build."

And no matter how prevalent a trend is, don't overdo it! Unless you want to look like Valentina's twin brother, for instance, it pays to wear a striking accent such as snakeskin (or other animal prints) to a minimum. The same applies to the military look. Part-time fashion "combatants" should leave the full-battle regalia to GI Joe.

Finally, you need not beg, steal or borrow in the name of fashion. Channeling hot colors, for example, is one way of incorporating a trend, says Samson. Learn to accessorize, but be judicious enough to limit your accessories to achieve certain focal points.

"When buying an item or piece of clothing," says Samson, "just make sure that it will work with your existing pieces."

Or, like Cobain's look (and music), your clothes should be able to transcend current trends and seasons.

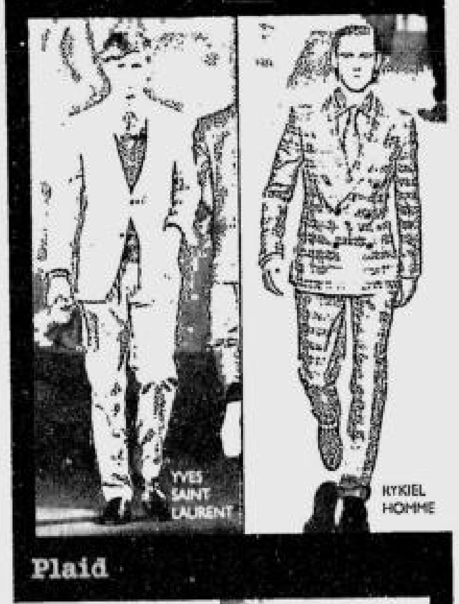
E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

JOHN VARVATOS
JUNYA WATANABE

Military

RALPH LAUREN
VIKTOR & ROLF

Tapered tux



Plaid

JIL SANDER
COMME DES GARCONS

Volume

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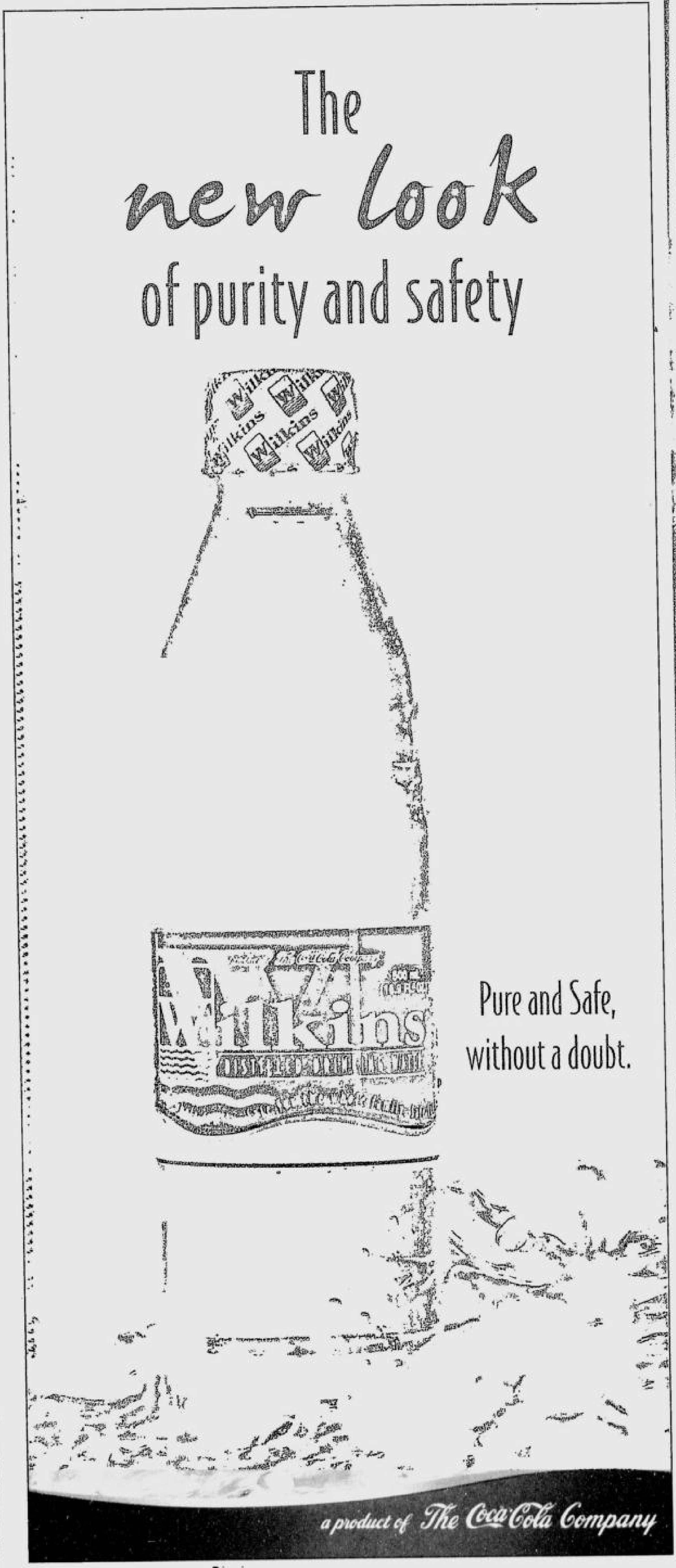

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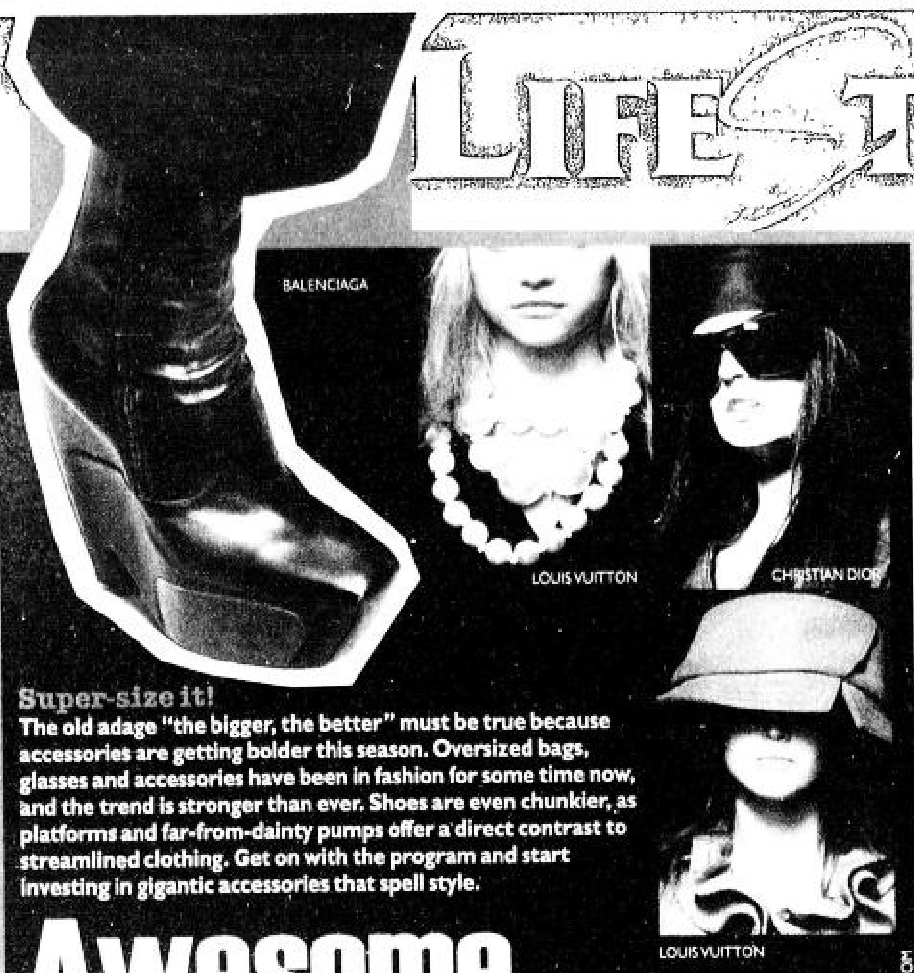

Super-size it!
The old adage "the bigger, the better" must be true because accessories are getting bolder this season. Oversized bags, glasses and accessories have been in fashion for some time now, and the trend is stronger than ever. Shoes are even chunkier, as platforms and far-from-dainty pumps offer a direct contrast to streamlined clothing. Get on with the program and start investing in gigantic accessories that spell style.

PHOTOS WWW.STYLE.COM

Awesome accessories

The flash and dash of gold jewelry, patent leather and racy leopard prints complement the somber hues of Fall fashion

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

HARKING BACK TO THE minimalist flavor of fashion in the early '90S, this coming Fall fashion season is all about restraint and sobriety. Majority of the international fashion houses have presented sophisticated clothing in muted tones like gray and sand, with black and white as ever-present staples.

Save for a few collections like Gucci's disco diva, Dolce and Gabbana's modern-day Josephine, and Christian Dior's glam rocker, most of the renowned fashion houses showed strong, no-nonsense ready-to-wear collections that were practical and beautiful in their simplicity.

But as awe-inspiring as these collections were, not everyone's a fan of such serious, grownup fashions.

It's a good thing the rules of moderation did not apply to accessories. Flash and dash were evident in gold jewelry, patent leather and racy leopard prints, which were undeniably the perfect foil for Fall's somber selections.

Looking for a bit of fashion inspiration? Take a peek at and pick from the hottest accessories for Fall 2006.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

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C. BODY SPLASH
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Reg. P235.00
SPECIAL P117.50
SAVE P117.50

D. ANTI-PERSPIRANT ROLL ON DEODORANT
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Reg. P290.00
SPECIAL P145.00
SAVE P145.00

50% off

A. SKIN SOFTENING HAND and BODY LOTION
150 mL
Reg. P235.00
SPECIAL P117.50
SAVE P117.50

B. PERFUMED TALC
100 g
Reg. P170.00
SPECIAL P85.00
SAVE P85.00

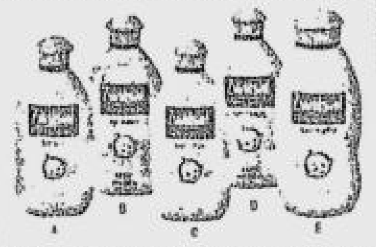
C. BODY SPLASH
100 mL
Reg. P235.00
SPECIAL P117.50
SAVE P117.50

D. ANTI PERSPIRANT ROLL ON DEODORANT
50 mL
Reg. P165.00
SPECIAL P82.50
SAVE P82.50

E. FRAGRANCE ROLLETTE
10 mL
Reg. P225.00
SPECIAL P112.50
SAVE P112.50

F. BODY SPRAY
75 mL
Reg. P295.00
SPECIAL P147.50
SAVE P147.50

G. BODY MIST
100 mL
Reg. P290.00
SPECIAL P145.00
SAVE P145.00



Zwitsal

A. BABY BATH
100 mL
Reg. P100.00

B. BABY SHAMPOO
100 mL
Reg. P160.00

C. BABY LOTION
100 g
Reg. P170.00

D. BABY COLOGNE
100 mL
Reg. P200.00

E. BABY POWDER
100 g
Reg. P150.00

Buy 2, get 3 FREE

Zwitsal KIDS

A. POWDER
100 g
Reg. P160.00

B. BABY BATH
100 mL
Reg. P170.00

C. DETANGLING SHAMPOO
100 mL
Reg. P170.00

D. COLOGNE
100 mL
Reg. P210.00

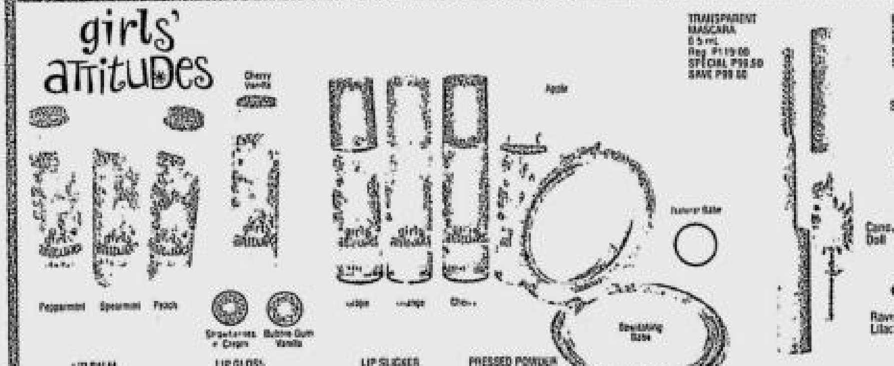
E. TOOTHPASTE
Strawberry Orange, Tutti-Frutti
100 mL
Reg. P100.00

Buy 2, get 3 FREE

Protect your kids from mosquitoes!

ZWITSAL KIDS SKIN LOTION
50 mL
Reg. P175.00
SPECIAL P119.00
SAVE P56.00

only P119



LIP BALM
4 g
Reg. P170.00
SPECIAL P85.00
SAVE P85.00

LIP GLOSS
4 g
Reg. P115.00
SPECIAL P57.50
SAVE P57.50

LIP SLICKER
10 mL
Reg. P199.00
SPECIAL P99.50
SAVE P99.50

PRESSED POWDER
7 g
Reg. P225.00
SPECIAL P112.50
SAVE P112.50

TRANSPARENT MASCARA
8.5 mL
Reg. P119.00
SPECIAL P59.50
SAVE P59.50

LIPSTICK
2.5 g
Reg. P170.00
SPECIAL P85.00
SAVE P85.00

50% off

WHITE RESULT

Healthy Cleansing
Natural Cleansing

A. FACIAL & BODY LOTION
50 mL
Reg. P270.00
SPECIAL P189.00
SAVE P81.00

B. FACIAL WASH
50 mL
Reg. P170.00
SPECIAL P89.00
SAVE P81.00

C. UNDERARM WHITENING CREME
20 g
Reg. P215.00
SPECIAL P155.00
SAVE P60.00

VITA CLEAR
D. FACIAL WASH
50 mL
Vitality
Reg. P160.00
SPECIAL P99.00
SAVE P61.00

VITA CLEAR
E. FACIAL WASH
50 mL
Green Apple
Reg. P150.00
SPECIAL P79.00
SAVE P71.00

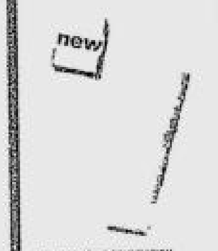
F. ELASTOCELL FACIAL CLEANSER
125 mL
Green Apple
Reg. P199.00
SPECIAL P169.00
SAVE P30.00

G. BODY SPLASH
Cool Blue, Zestful Purple, Fresh Green
100 mL
Reg. P220.00
SPECIAL P99.00
SAVE P121.00

H. SHAMPOO
Cool Blue, Zestful Purple, Fresh Green
250 mL
Reg. P210.00
SPECIAL P149.00
SAVE P61.00

As low as P79

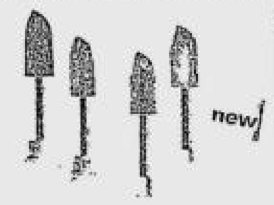
NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS • NEW PRODUCTS



ILLUMINATING FOUNDATION
Make-up base
30 mL
Reg. P299.00
SPECIAL P249.00
SAVE P50.00

50% off

for the Woman of the World...



CLASS
BEAUTY
LUXURY
POWER

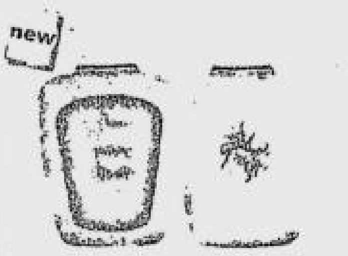
WOMAN OF THE WORLD LIPSTIC
4 g
Reg. P295.00
SPECIAL P129.00
SAVE P166.00

only P129

Colors fit for a dancing queen

DANCE FUSION COLOR KIT
Reg. P299.00
SPECIAL P199.00
SAVE P100.00

only P199



POSSIBILITIES
Perfumed Skin Softener
125 mL
Reg. P295.00
SPECIAL P199.00
SAVE P96.00

PRETTY WOMAN
Perfumed Skin Softener
125 mL
Reg. P295.00
SPECIAL P199.00
SAVE P96.00

only P199

SKIN TERRITORY FOR MEN

FACIAL CLEANSER
Basic
150 mL
Reg. P199.00
SPECIAL P99.00
SAVE P100.00

FACIAL CLEANSER
Pimple Control
150 mL
Reg. P215.00
SPECIAL P179.00
SAVE P36.00

FACIAL CLEANSER
Papaya
150 mL
Reg. P230.00
SPECIAL P185.00
SAVE P45.00

As low as P99

MESH HIPSTER
4 5 6 7
Beige, White, Black
Reg. P180.00

Playtex
THANK GOODNESS
IT FITS
new

EMBROIDERED UNDERWIRE
34/B - 38/B
Pearl Blue
Reg. P455.00

THE DEEP PLUNGE BRA
32A/B - 36A/B
Black
Reg. P615.00

jms
JUST MY SIZE
new

The comfortable fit that flatters.

LIFT & SIDE SUPPORT BRA
18 A/B/C 40 A/B
Nude, Black
Reg. P585.00

new
Neckline

Be your own Champion

CHAMPION FOR MEN
1021 SHIRT STRIPED
White with Green
White with Blue
S, M, L Reg. P525.00
XL Reg. P595.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
1021 RAGLAN TEE
Blue, Red
S, M, L Reg. P370.00
XL Reg. P390.00

JOIN NOW!

Let's Rock n' Roll!

OPEN TO ALL DEALERS

- For every P1,000 DGS purchase of Sara Lee products from July 1-31, 2006 you get one (1) raffle coupon.
- The more you buy, the more chances for you to take home the grand prize P100,000 tax FREE!

GET SET TO WIN!

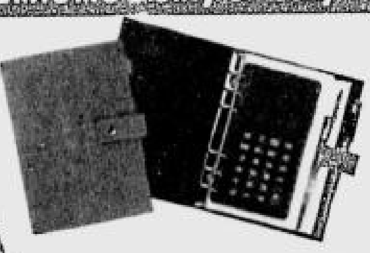
- A total of 270 winning coupons for the major and grand prizes will be drawn
- 264 winners of home appliances
- 6 winners of P100,000 cash prize each.

OTHER PRIZES

- TV Set, Mini-Component, DVD Player, Turbo Broiler, Electric Oven, Electric Fan, Rice Cooker, Rechargeable Lantern.

Go to the nearest Sara Lee branch for more details

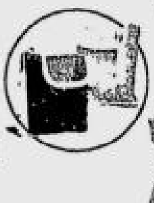
PREMIUMS only on July 16 - 31, 2006



PERSONAL ORGANIZER
Color: Red
Size: W=5", H=7"
Rubberized cover.
Included are pages for addresses and note pads. Also with I.D. and card compartments.

3 in 1 COLORED BAG
Made of leatherette material.
Available in colors:
Pink/Blue/White &
Beige/Red/Tan
Approximate size:
L=8-1/2",
W=2- 1/8",
H=4-1/4"

CONVERTIBLE BAG
(Foldable Shopping Bag)
Made of non-woven material.
Available in colors:
Blue & Lavander
Folded size:
6-1/2" x 5"
Unfolded size:
H=13-1/4"
W=14-1/4"



Only P169 each with every P700 purchase

DEALER INCENTIVE:

For every 1 recruit with an initial purchase of at least P700 CSP (net of CPI & Reg. Kit) from July 16 - 31, 2006 and get a FREE CHAMPION T-SHIRT from these choises:

SHOW WHAT CHAMPIONS ARE MADE OF!

Champion

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
ATHLETIC TANK
White, Pink
S, M, L
Reg. P320.00
XL
Reg. 330.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
CROWN TANK
Light Blue, Hot Pink
S, M, L
Reg. P370.00
XL
Reg. 380.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
EMBELLISHED HALTER TOP
Aqua Collar
Raspberry Collar
S, M, L
Reg. P470.00
XL
Reg. 490.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
RAGLAN TOP
Lavender, Light Blue
S, M, L
Reg. P405.00
XL
Reg. 425.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
LOGO TANK
Green, Pink
S, M, L
Reg. P475.00
XL
Reg. 490.00

CHAMPION FOR WOMEN
RAGLAN SLEEVELESS TANK
Navy Blue, Mint Green
S, M, L
Reg. P315.00
XL
Reg. 365.00

SALES INCENTIVE

10 FREE PRIZES

OPEN TO ALL QUALIFIED IGSS

- For every P1,000 DGS you make on July 1-31, 2006, you get 1 square.
- Each of the 2nd, 4th, 7th and 10th square entitles you to one (1) instant prize of your choice.

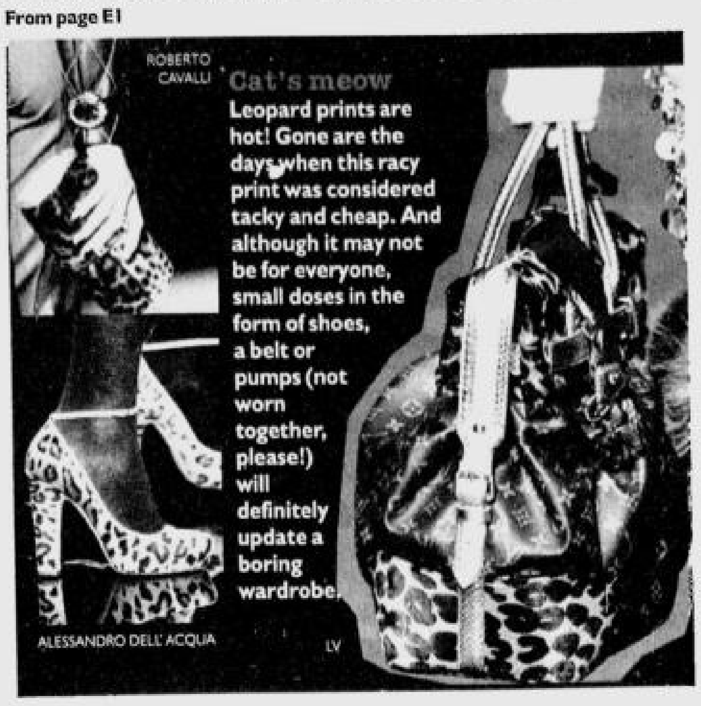
Go to the nearest Sara Lee Branch for more details.

SARA LEE BRANCHES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINES

ANGELES (045) 888-3492 / 888-3494, Fax (045) 888-3494 • **ALAMINOS** (075) 551-5823 / 551-5018, Fax (075) 551-5618 • **APALIT** (045) 302-8466 / 652-0337, Fax (045) 302-8100 • **ANTIPOLO** 650-6578 / 630-0020 / 650-6355, Fax 650-6578 • **BALAYAN** (043) 921-3895 / 211-5808 Fax (043) 211-5808 • **BACOLOD** (034) 433-3384 / 433-3385 (034) 433-3386 / 433-3387 • Fax (034) 433-3385 • **BAESA** 453-0260, Fax 453-0351 • **BALANGA** (047) 791-2447 / 237-1007 / 237-2613, Fax (047) 791-2447 • **BALIWAG** (044) 673-1308, Fax (044) 766-5937 • **BATANGAS** (043) 723-7778 / 723-7779 / 723-7780 Fax (043) 723-7770 / 723-7778 • **BAGUIO** (074) 443-0863 / 443-9864, Fax (074) 443-9804 • **BINAN** (049) 241-2024 / 241-2025 / 411-3934, Fax 520-8216 / 520-8266 • **BOGO CITY** (032) 251-2561 / 251-2602, Fax (032) 251-2561 • **BONI BREX** 534-2824 / 534-2841, Fax 534-2824 • **BUTUAN CITY** (085) 815-4068 / 342-4420, Fax (085) 815-4070 • **CABANATUAN** (044) 463-1168 / 463-5061 / 600-3760, Fax (044) 463-5962 • **CAGAYAN DE ORO BRANCH** (088) 857-2037 / 857-2038 (22) 728216 / (22) 727393, Fax (088) 857-2036 • **CAINTA** 656-8162 / 655-6907, Fax 656-8162 • **CALAPAN** (043) 288-1571 / 441-0262, Fax (043) 288-1571 • **CALAMBA** (049) 243-6313 / 545-9644 / 420-8217, Fax (049) 545-9644 • **CANDON** (077) 742-4175 / 742-4172 • **CAUAYAN** (078) 652-0688 / 652-7258, Fax (078) 652-1278 • **CEBU** (032) 253-2842 / 253-2896, 253-2837 / 253-2835 Fax (032) 253-2990 • **CENTRAL** 524-0477 / 524-0470 / 524-0471, Fax 524-0477 • **CAVITE** (046) 471-9255 / 471-4152 / 471-9415, Fax (046) 471-9256 • **COMMONWEALTH / FAIRVIEW** 951-0052 / 453-2707 / 453-0913, Fax 453-2767 • **CUBAO** (Fly High) 421-9040 / 421-9044, Fax 4219040 • **DAGUPAN** (075) 522-3165 / 522-9202, 522-2206, Fax (075) 522-2102 • **DAVAO** (082) 221-9731 / 221-9730, 221-9729 / 221-9732, Fax (082) 221-9726 • **DIPOLOG** (065) 212-8793, Fax (065) 212-8878 • **DUMAGUETE** (035) 225-0453 / 422-0515, Fax (035) 225-9153 • **EDSA** 372-6480 / 372-7220, 372-6482 / 372-6516 to 19, Fax 372-6186 • **ESPANA** 735-8650 / 735-8651 / 735-8662, Fax 735-8051 • **GEN. SANTOS** (083) 302-1923 / 302-1924 / 3011720, Fax (083) 302-1924 • **GEN. TRIAS** (046) 509-2613 / 887-2027 / 887-1933, Fax (046) 506-2613 • **GUMACA** (042) 317-7315 / 317-7316, Fax (042) 421-1673 • **ILIGAN** (063) 221-7245 / 492-1453, Fax (063) 492-1452 • **ILOILO** (033) 337-6864, Fax (033) 336-3805 • **KALIBO** (036) 262-2762 / 268-8753, Fax (036) 268-8753 • **KIDAPAWAN** (064) 278-3186 / 278-3187 • **LAS PINAS** 800-3855 / 800-3854 / 800-8274 / 800-3871, Fax 800-3854 • **LAOAG** (077) 770-3878, Fax (077) 771-4303 • **LA UNION** (072) 242-7719, Fax (072) 242-7503 • **LEGAZPI** (052) 245-5260 / 820-0870 / 480-1404, Fax (052) 820-3209 • **LIPA** (043) 756-7892 / 756-7893 / 312-4686, Fax (043) 756-7892 • **LUCENA** (042) 373-4172 / 373-4173 / 710-6621, Fax (042) 373-4172 • **MAASIN** (053) 570-8573, Fax (053) 381-4172 • **MALABON** 281-5608 / 282-0200 / 283-5051, Fax 281-5608 • **MALOLOS** (044) 791-2663 / 662-7173, Fax (044) 791-2663 • **MAKATI** 881-8680 / 881-8681, Fax 881-8679 • **MANDAUE** • **MARIKINA (CUBAO)** 475-0453 / 475-0372 / 475-1901 / 475-1903, Fax 475-0372 • **MEYCAUAYAN** (044) 935-3511 / 935-3512, Fax (044) 840-4018 • **MONUMENTO** 362-9075 / 362-9627 • **NAGA** (054) 811-2320 / 473-3858 / 472-2858, Fax (054) 811-2320 • **NOVALICHES** 935-9245 to 47 / 417-4397, Fax 935-9245 • **OLONGAPO** TeleFax (047) 223-6299 • **ORMOC** (053) 255-8310, Fax (053) 561-4384 • **OZAMIS CITY** (088) 521-1127 / 521-1129 / 521-1197, Fax (088) 521-1127 • **PAGADIAN** (062) 214-4909, Fax (062) 214-4910 • **PASAY** 832-0002 / 832-6003, Fax 832-0002 • **ROCES** • **ROXAS CITY** (036) 621-0686 / 621-0741 • **STA ANA** 534-0962 / 534-0004 / 533-5808 / 534-0804, Fax 533-5808 • **SAN CARLOS** (034) 312-8507 / 729-3180, Fax (034) 729-3180 • **SAN FERNANDO** (045) 963-4549 / 860-0175, Fax (045) 963-4549 • **SAN JOSE** (044) 511-2033 / 511-2034, Fax (044) 511-2033 • **SAN PABLO** (049) 562-2107 / 562-2108, Fax (049) 562-2107 • **SHAW** 638-9190 / 638-0192 / 635-0137 / 635-0110, Fax 638-9193 • **SOLANO** (078) 326-5216 / 326-6226 / (078) 326-6226 • **SORSOGON** (056) 421-5139 / 211-2425, Fax (056) 421-5139 • **STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA** (049) 808-5604 / 810-3820, Fax (049) 808-5594 / 421-5133 • **STA. MESA** 782-1432, Fax 782-1398 • **SUCAT** 820-8650 / 820-7302, Fax 820-7664 • **SURIGAO CITY** (086) 826-3884 / 231-9595, Fax (086) 826-3884 • **TACLOBAN** (053) 325-6699 / 325-6857, Fax (053) 321-6062 • **TAGBILARAN** (038) 501-7090 / 501-7765, Fax (038) 235-5833 • **TAGUIG** 640-0926 / 640-0871, Fax 640-0871 • **TANAUAN** (043) 778-6002 / 778-6003, Fax (043) 778-6002 • **TAYTAY** 654-3912, Fax 654-3925 • **TARLAC** (045) 982-3249 / 611-0007, Fax (045) 982-3249 • **TONDO** 257-0400 / 257-0489, Fax 257-0488 / 252-5546 • **TUGUEGARAO CITY** (078) 846-1946 / 844-7258, Fax (078) 844-7258 • **URDANETA** (075) 568-6408 / 568-4759, Fax (075) 568-0400 • **VALENZUELA** 292-4484 / 293-4424 / 292-6342, Fax 292-6342 • **VIGAN** TeleFax (077) 722-3015 • **ZAMBOANGA** (062) 993-1182, Fax (062) 992-0146

Awesome accessories

From page E1


ROBERTO CAVALLI
ALESSANDRO DELL' ACQUIA
LV

Cat's meow

Leopard prints are hot! Gone are the days when this racy print was considered tacky and cheap. And although it may not be for everyone, small doses in the form of shoes, a belt or pumps (not worn together, please!) will definitely update a boring wardrobe.

DOLCE & GABBANA
PACO RABANNE
THAKOON

Bootie-licious

Booties or ankle boots are the perfect match for super hot leggings, ultra-skinny jeans and sexy shorts or mini-skirts. They are edgy, funky and fun. Plus, they help create interesting, modern proportions. They're also not as constricting and hot (literally, that is!) as their knee-high versions, so they're more apt for our humid weather.

GUCCI
ALLESANDRO DELL' ACQUA
DONNA KARAN

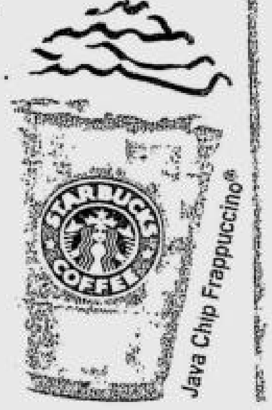
Midas touch

Gold is the metallic color of choice, so get that glow by donning golden pieces such as a pair of pumps, a tote or piece of jewelry. Not to worry, silver or white gold are classics that will never go out of style. But if you really want to shine this season, gold's the way to go!

EXPLORE WHAT'S SENSATIONAL ABOUT SUMMER

STARBUCKS® Introduces Indulgent New Beverages: Java Chip Frappuccino®

A cool and delicious beverage is something that should be savored and enjoyed. This season, Starbucks invites you to discover its latest coffee treat, new Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Coffee. It's an icy blend of rich dark chocolate chips, coffee and milk topped with whipped cream and swirls of even more chocolate!


Java Chip Frappuccino®

The decadent flavor of Java Chip Frappuccino Blended Coffee makes your day much more delightful. This handcrafted beverage - also available as a blended cream (non-coffee) delight, promises to provide an indulgent coffee experience.

A chip made of cookie crumbs mixed with rich cocoa and topped with chocolate confection coating, Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Beverage is a creamy, crunchy indulgent goodness that can be customized with chocolate, caramel or blended in cream.

Chocolate Cream Chip Frappuccino®

Caramel Java Chip Frappuccino®

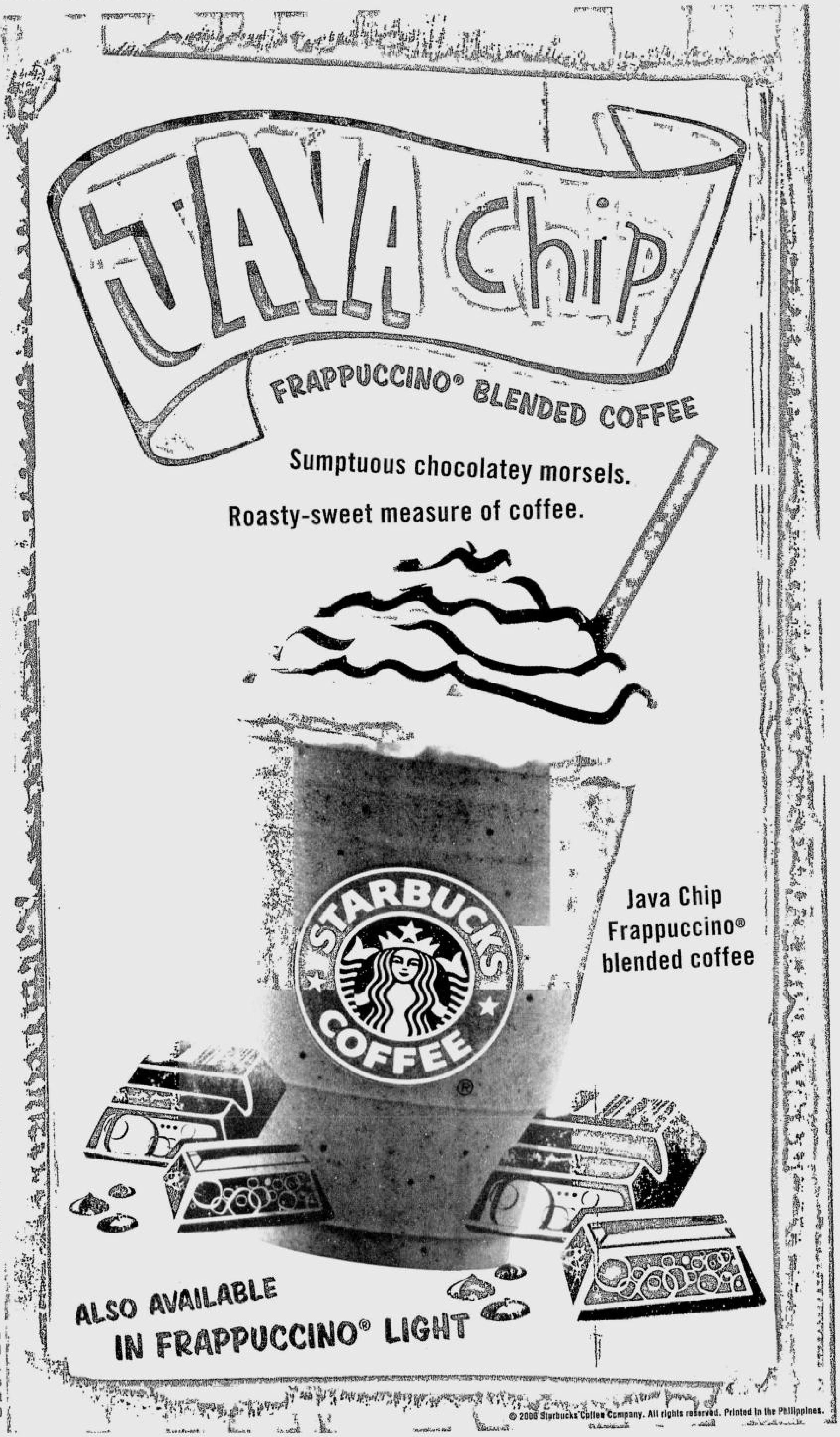
A cool treat of Starbucks coffee, milk and ice, Frappuccino® Blended Beverage is a handcrafted beverage introduced in 1995 by a group of Starbucks baristas in California. The original Frappuccino® flavors – coffee and mocha – have been joined over the years by Coffee Jelly Frappuccino® and Caramel Frappuccino® and now, Java Chip Frappuccino® Blended Coffee.

About Starbucks

Through the dedication of passionate partners (employees), Starbucks Coffee Company has transformed the way people in 37 countries enjoy their coffee, one cup at a time. Starbucks is the premier purveyor of the finest coffee in the world, with more than 11,000 retail locations in North America, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific Rim. The Company is committed to offering customers the highest quality coffee and human connection through the Starbucks Experience, while striving to improve the social, environmental and economic well being of its partners, coffee farmers, countries of coffee origin, and the communities it serves.

About Rustan Coffee Corporation

Starbucks Philippines is owned by Rustan Coffee Corporation (RCoC), the authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee International. Starbucks Philippines opened its first Starbucks Coffee retail store on December 4, 1997 at 6750 Ayala Avenue. To date, there are 100 Starbucks stores nationwide.


JAVA Chip
FRAPPUCCINO® BLENDED COFFEE
Sumptuous chocolatey morsels.
Roasty-sweet measure of coffee.
STARBUCKS COFFEE
Java Chip Frappuccino® blended coffee
ALSO AVAILABLE IN FRAPPUCCINO® LIGHT

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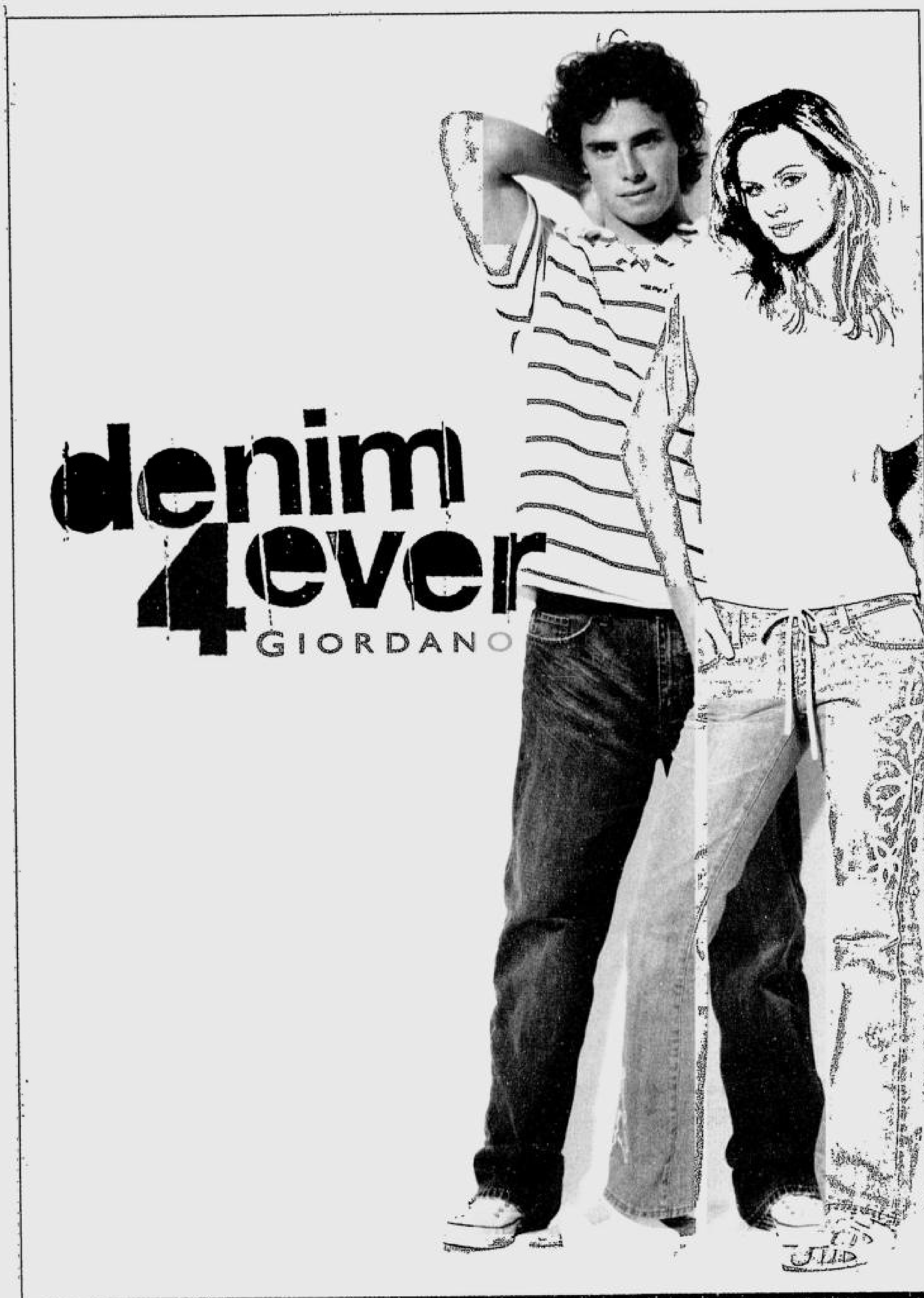
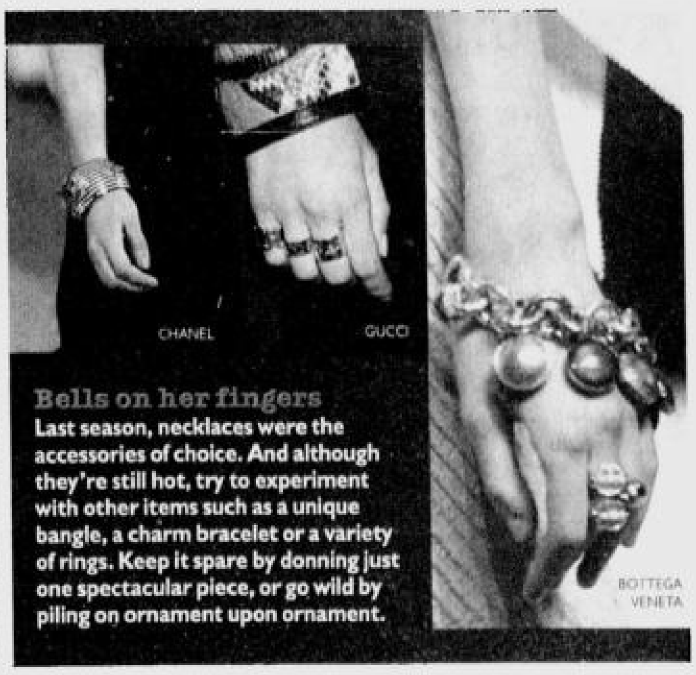

denim 4ever
GIORDANO

ALABANG TOWN CENTER • ALIMALL • FILINVEST FESTIVAL SUPERMALL ALABANG • HARRISON PLAZA • GLORIETTA 4 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA • ROBINSONS PLACE ERMITA MANILA • ROBINSONS METRO EAST
SHOPPESVILLE • SM CITY ANNEX • SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM CITY CENTERPOINT • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY MEGAMALL A • SM CITY MEGAMALL B • SM CITY NORTH EDSA
THE PODIUM • SM CITY SOUTHMALL • SM CITY SUCAT • STA. LUCIA II • THE POWER PLANT MALL ROCKWELL • TUTUBAN CENTERMALL II • MALL OF ASIA (SOON TO OPEN) • AYALA CENTER CEBU CITY
MINDPRO CITIMALL ZAMBOANGA CITY • NE PACIFIC MALL CABANATUAN CITY • PUREGOLD DUTY FREE PLAZA CLARK • ROBINSONS PLACE BACOLOD CITY • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY BATANGAS • LIMKETKAI MALL CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY VALENZUELA • SM CITY CLARK (SOON TO OPEN)

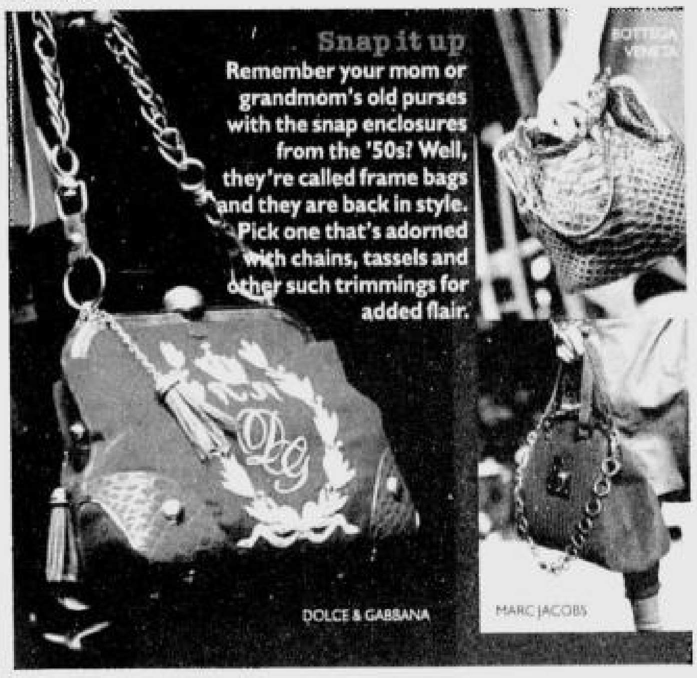

CHANEL
GUCCI
BOTTEGA VENETA

Bells on her fingers

Last season, necklaces were the accessories of choice. And although they're still hot, try to experiment with other items such as a unique bangle, a charm bracelet or a variety of rings. Keep it spare by donning just one spectacular piece, or go wild by piling on ornament upon ornament.

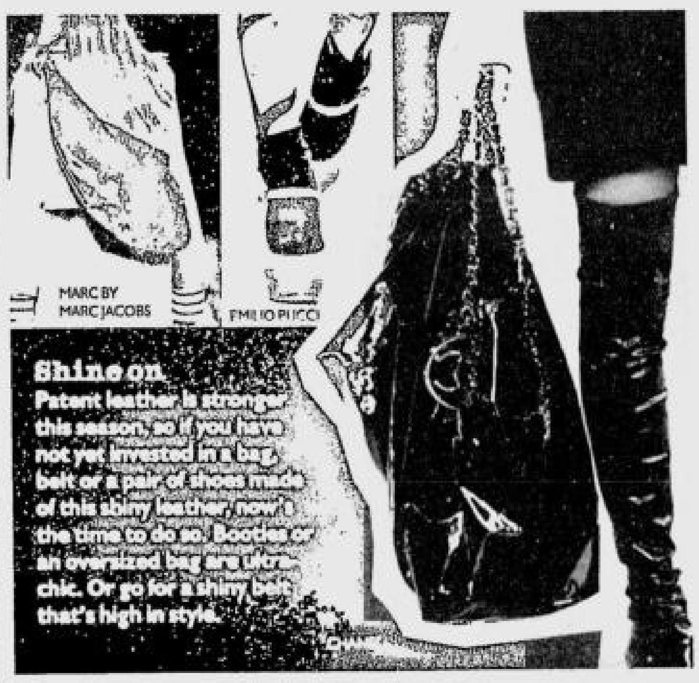
Awesome accessories

From page E3


BOTTEGA VENETA
DOLCE & GABBANA
MARC JACOBS

Snap it up

Remember your mom or grandmom's old purses with the snap enclosures from the '50s? Well, they're called frame bags and they are back in style. Pick one that's adorned with chains, tassels and other such trimmings for added flair.


MARC BY MARC JACOBS
EMILIO PUCCI

Shine on

Patent leather is stronger this season, so if you have not yet invested in a bag, belt or a pair of shoes made of this shiny leather, now's the time to do so. Booties or an oversized bag are ultra-chic. Or go for a shiny belt that's high in style.

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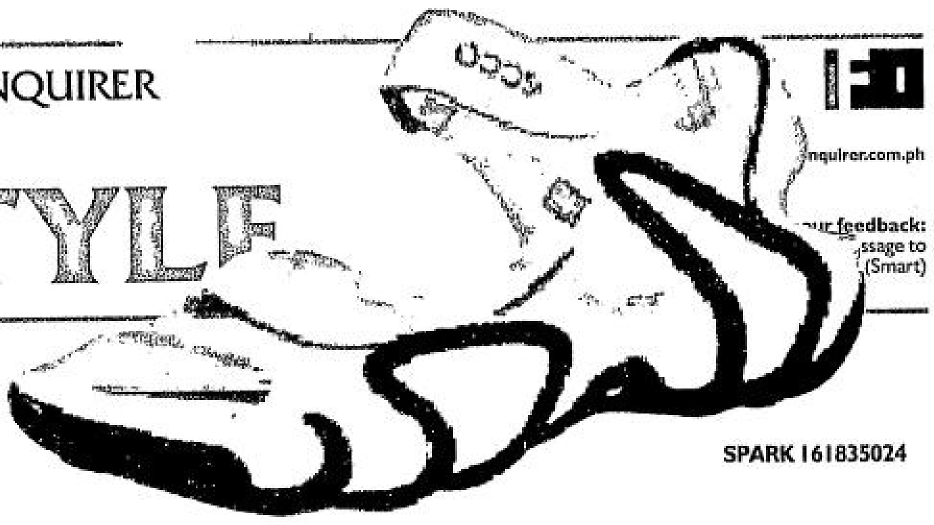
MICHAEL Hauge Sorensen, managing director, Ecco Asia-Pacific Limited, and Anton Huang, EVP of Stores Specialists Inc.

Ecco, the world-famous brand of comfort footwear from Denmark, is now in the Philippines



SPARK 161835024

CASUAL Super Cross 1405350460

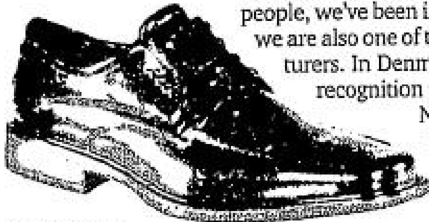
PULSE 32854-51918

The sole of Scandinavia

By Gibbs Cadiz

MICHAEL HAUGE SORENSEN, MANAGING director of Ecco Asia Pacific Limited, can rattle off his product's impressive statistics without batting an eyelash.

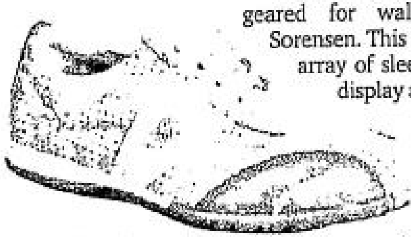
"Ecco is probably the most advanced shoe manufacturer in the world," he says. "We make 12 million pairs a year, we employ some 10,000 people, we've been in business for 43 years, and we are also one of the largest leather manufacturers. In Denmark, we have higher brand recognition than Coca-Cola."



NEW YORK Black

Not surprisingly, this top Danish export has been a staple in the world market for decades. But it's only now that Ecco has arrived in the Philippines via a flagship store that recently opened at the second floor of Shangri-La Plaza. Ecco is distributed locally by Stores Specialists Inc.

"Our heritage is very much in lifestyle shoes geared for walking and comfort," says Sorensen. This is immediately evident in the array of sleek but practical footwear on display at the Ecco store.

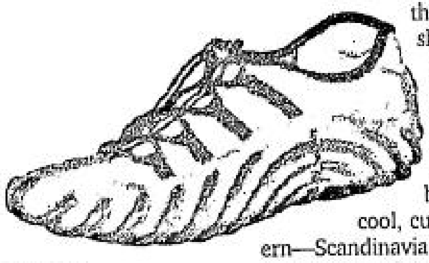


ACTIVE Style 1378352480

The brand takes pride in its end-to-end manufacturing process, which ensures that everything—"from sourcing and production of raw materials to design, manufacturing, distribution and sales," notes Sorensen—is controlled by the company. Such meticulousness has allowed Ecco to come up with pioneering designs and technology for its products, some 90 percent of which are exported.

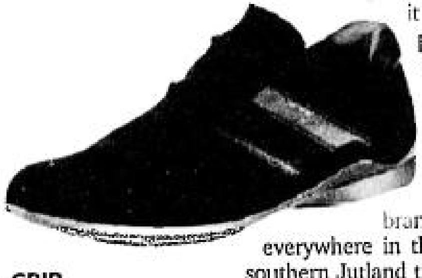
ECCO City Montevideo Desert Sling-back

Durability, for instance, is a given because of Ecco's use of Desma technology, a high-tech innovation that enables the direct injection of soles into the footwear, assuring a seamlessly sturdy yet comfortable product. In 1982, Ecco was also one of the first mass-production companies to use robots in its plants.



CASUAL Super Cross 1401352503

Ecco's designs range from the elaborate to the classic. Men's and ladies' shoes come in a variety of styles and colors, using luxe materials such as suede, leather and rubber. But because Ecco is, more than anything, a "casual" brand, the overall look is cool, cutting-edge, vibrantly modern—Scandinavia at its most adventurous.



GRIP 31024709

Ecco's store also carries this sensibility. It is brightly lit, uncluttered for easy navigation and browsing, but has a warmly elegant feel to it thanks to the strategic placement of rugs, chairs, compact sofas and mirrors. The store's streamlined Nordic vibe is lock in step with its product's laid-back sophistication.

Sorensen says Ecco's brand presentation is the same everywhere in the world. The pride of the southern Jutland town of Bredebro, Denmark, is now in more than 4,000 stores in some 60 countries worldwide, including the Philippines.

Now, people who used to shop for their Ecco shoes in Hong Kong can just scoot over to Shangri-La Plaza for a new pair. By any measure, Ecco in the Philippines is a step in the right direction.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

ECCO City Lima Black Pumps

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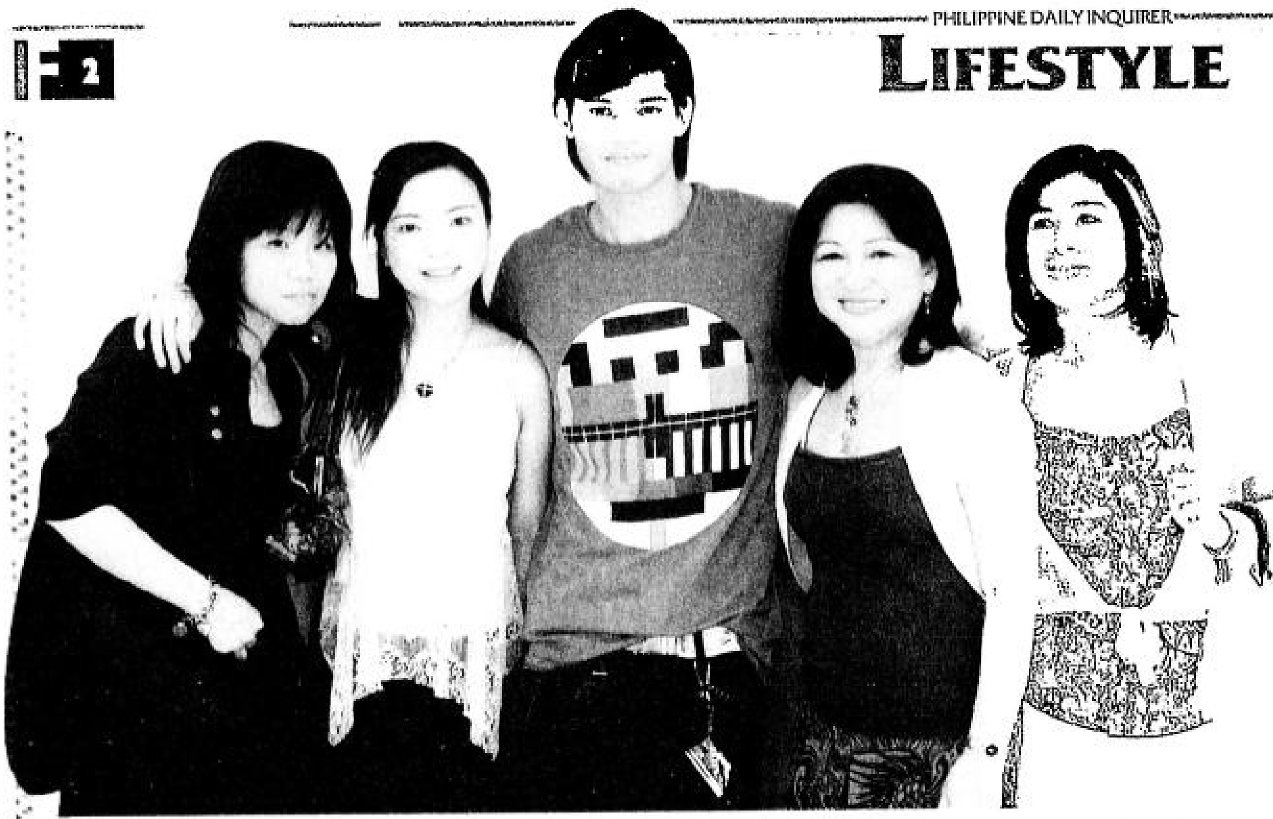
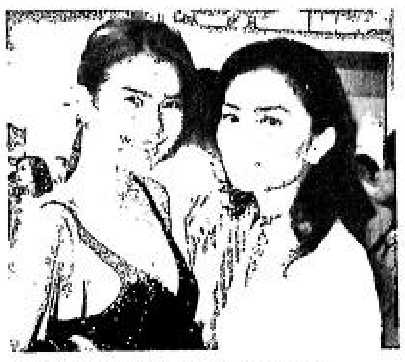

RACHELLE Fung, Esprit Asia regional visual manager; Mary Tzo, marketing manager; Borgy Manotoc; Therese Coronel-Santos, Cinderella's EVP; and Malou de Venecia, marketing director

ALANA Lopez and Eva Abesamis

RONALD Singson and Mutya ng Pilipinas 2006 Kirby Ann Basken

CONNIE Garcia and Nymfa Yatco


JESSICA Kienle and Zelda Kienle

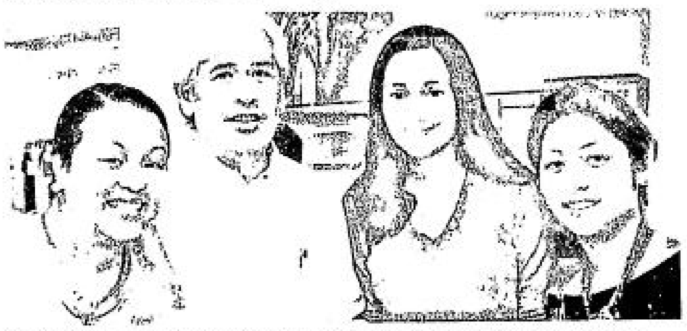
Spirit-filled fashion takes on the world

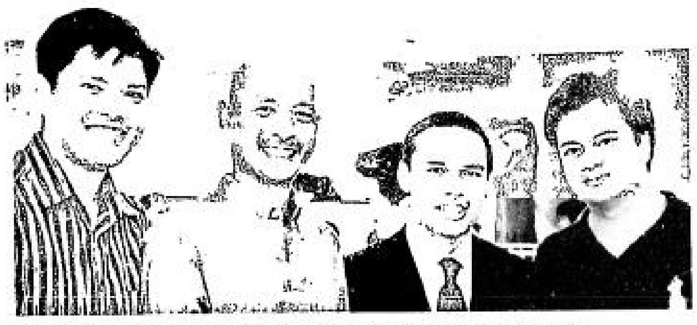
WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

GP Reyes, Stephen Ku, Anne Matoto, Leo Po and Marielle Coronel-Santos, Cinderella's group manager for ladies local brands


SANDY Henson, Raul Manzano, Sara Black and Nikki Sarmiento


JUDE Turcuato, Mike Besa, Paolo Villar and Marcel Crespo

POPULAR couple Connie Garcia and Ambassador Victor Garcia, Marites Mendoza Pineda, and Agnes and Ambassador Jan de Kok of the European Union Commission

THE BRILLIANT sons of the late Ambassador Syquia: Tomas, Fernando, Fr. Jose Francisco and Joel

LOVELY Romulo and Mercy Tuazon

THE RIBBON-SNIPPING at the turnover of the Ambassador Enrique Syquia Collection at the University of Santo Tomas Library is led by UST rector Fr. Tamerlane Lana, OP; Letty Syquia; Nena Bautista; Ms Majerela of UST Library (behind); Rev. Fr. Jose Syquia; and Nandy de Jesus

CINDERELLA'S CEO Arthur Coronel, Ambassador Victor Garcia, Lovie Poe, Roselle Nava, Wilson Tieng and Richie Santos, Cinderella's VP-merchandising

THE THREE B'S OF THE INVITATION were the first that caught my eye, aside from the color red, *palanggas*. So I dashed to Cinderella, and as *moi* expected, it was the hottest ticket of the week, with tons of Manille's social namedroppables, and partying hip personalities present.

It was the grand launch of the Spring/Summer Collection 2006 of all the Esprit Worlds, namely Casual, Collection and EDC.

The Esprit bash was tagged "Bigger, Better and Bolder," and it was true to its promise. Esprit's flagship store in the country is globally at par with all the Esprit stores in the world.

"A great party is a must," explained good-looking **Richie Coronel Santos**, hot vice president for imported brands of Cinderella.

"This Esprit store is not only the biggest and best one in the country; it is also one of the largest amongst all of the Esprit stores in Asia," Santos said.

The standing-room crowd applauded wildly during the fashion show, which was directed by **Jackie Aquino** and featured international models from Brazil, as well as local models and hot couple **Borgy M.** and **Ornusa C.** They walked down the runway amid the electronic trip-hop music by Drip.

With EDC's fashionably fun and bold styles, 10 up-and-coming talented gals, who are 2006 Cinderella Image models, strutted their stuff, *palanggas*.

Before the show started we were served excellent finger food by California Pizza Kitchen and drowned in the real good cocktail concoctions and wines from Maxxium, Diageo and Premiere Wines.

Fashionable **Liza Ilarde** and Marie Claire's **Rorie Carlos** won P20,000 each worth of gift certificate from John Robert.

It was a fab event made more special with the presence of **Johann Espiritu**, **Cristine Collantes Garcia**, **Carlito Villaroman**, **Babsie Aragon**, PAL's eye-catching **Debbie Cuyegkeng** and **Ria**, gorgeous **Lovie Poe**, ABS-CBN's **Marie Lozano**, our pal **Pepper Teehankee**, ABS-CBN Publishing's **Philip Cuunjieng**, Jack TV's **Sib**, ETC's **Sam Oh**, and photographer **Sara Black**, *palanggas*.

But the event didn't stop there. It rocked and rolled with loads of fun as we all were invited to the *aprés*-show bash at that hot "in" restaurant/bar, Nuvo, in Greenbelt 2, dahlings, where the invitees partied till way, way past Cinderella's bedtime, *palanggas*.

Syquia donation to UST

The well-loved and respected Ambassador **Enrique P. Syquia** may have passed on, but his legacy to both his children and the students of law of his alma mater, the Pontifical and Royal University of Sto. Tomas (UST), lives on, *palanggas*.

His five sons, all achievers in their fields—Dr. **Jose Fernando**, Fr. **Jose Francisco**, businessman **Jose Martin**, and top lawyers **Jose Tomas** and **Jose Luis**—will never forget the three "truisms" that their illustrious father gave them for guidance in their life: "There is no compromise for values"; "No amount of success can compensate for failure in the home"; and "There are only two things a father can leave behind to his children: a good name and a good education."

It's a known fact, *palanggas*, that the ambassador was a top international law expert and the recipient of various international and national awards and citations.

The ambassador's greatness was relived when **Letty Syquia** invited us for cocktails to witness the Syquia's *famille* donating the late ambassador's extensive law library to his alma mater. The donation now occupies a separate section of the UST Central Library. The section is now known the Ambassador Enrique Syquia Collection.

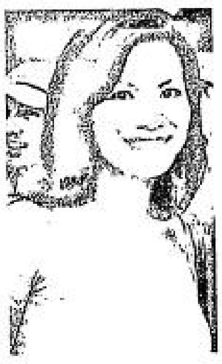
Accepting the donation were UST's Rector Magnificus, the Rev. Fr. **Tamerlane Lana**, O.P., and prefect of libraries, the Rev. Fr. **Angel A. Aparicio**, O.P.

"The library, a wonderful legacy to the future of (UST's) great alumni, is a tremendous help to the law students," said Father Aparicio.

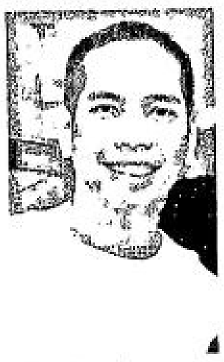
In attendance were UST Faculty of Civil Law Dean **Augusto Aligada**, Judicial and Bar Council member and former UST Law Dean **Amado Dimayuga**, Judge **Philip Aguinaldo**, Rev. Fr. Vicente **Cajilig**, O.P., Justice and Ms **Fidel Purisima**, DILG Undersecretary, and Ms **Marius P. Corpus**, Judge and Ms **Hector P. Corpus**, business magnate and car collector **Louie Ablaza**, who was with ultra-glam wife, **Mellie Romero A.**, Dr. and Ms **Avelino Adventura**, UST law students, faculty and alumni, natch!

The following day, there was a memorial Mass, officiated by the late ambassador's son, Fr. Jose Francisco Syquia. It was attended by tons of friends of the well-liked ambassador, including the diplomatic set, mega-politicians and hotshot businessmen and their wives.

A short film clip of some of his achievements and his happy *famille* life brought back fond memories of him to all his many friends, *palanggas*.


SID Castro

MARK Villar


VITO Lazatin

CHESCA Litton

Havaianas in Davao

The prestigious Marco Polo Davao has definitely made a mark as Davao City's fashion hub, dahlings.

Havaianas has been an awesome hit the world over and was the craze at almost all the fashion shows in New York.

So Marco Polo Davao decided to turn its poolside into a colorful island, featuring cool, colorful Havaianas.

This Isla Fiesta! party showcased the fab creations of **Kate Torralba** and was directed by **Dodjie Batu**.

Jetting in from Manille was Spin City's DJ **Jessie Suaco**, who was once the youngest and only Filipino member of the Ministry of Sound.

Lots of Havaianas lovers were at the event. Host **JM Rodriguez** raffled off prizes and did the introduction of the fashion show, along with hot Marco Polo PR officer **Karyn Flores** and Killer Bee's **Mau Abella**.

Cheska Garcia and **Celine Gabriel**, along with Havaianas Davao owners **Marga Montemayor**, **Tisha Ang** and Havaianas Philippines' **Anne Gonzalez**, chose the Havaianas Couple of the Night.

Raffled off were one-of-a-kind embellished Havaianas, all limited-edition styles. **Bernard Palanca** and **Meryll Soriano** awarded the "Homre y Mujer, en la Isla Fiesta" to the winners who brought home the fab Special Edition 2006 World Cup Gold and Silver Havaianas.

Isla Fiesta, *palanggas*, was also held to raise funds for the Just for Kids Foundation, specifically the Kids with Cancer Foundation in the Davao Medical Center and the Therapy Center for Disabled Children in Tugbok, Davao City.

A super fun bash for a good cause, *palanggas!*

MARCO Polo sales and marketing director Art Boncato, Lez Vargas, Jovy Aquino and Trece Cantaba

ALBERT and Marilou Sian and sons AC, AJ and AF Sian

YOUNG, HIP SHAKERS. Havaianas Phils.' Anne Gonzalez, Havaianas owners Marga Montemayor and Tisha Ang (right), with Killer Bee's Mau Abella and Marco Polo's cybersmart PR officer Karyn Flores

ANIMALAND, the do-it-yourself stuffed-animal store, recently awarded the designer "Kitty for Mom" to winners Melanie Fadriguela of Twinville Subdivision, Marikina (JC Buendia design); Jessica Cruz of San Juan (Dita Sandico-Ong design); and Ruth Vera of Eastern Place, Salcedo Village, Makati (Frederick Peralta design). Animaland has branches at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Power Plant Rockwell, Eastwood City Libis, Alabang Towncenter, and Toy Kingdom Mall of Asia. In photo are Rose de la Torre of Animaland, and Jessica Cruz, winner of Dita Sandico-Ong stuffed toy, with her kids.

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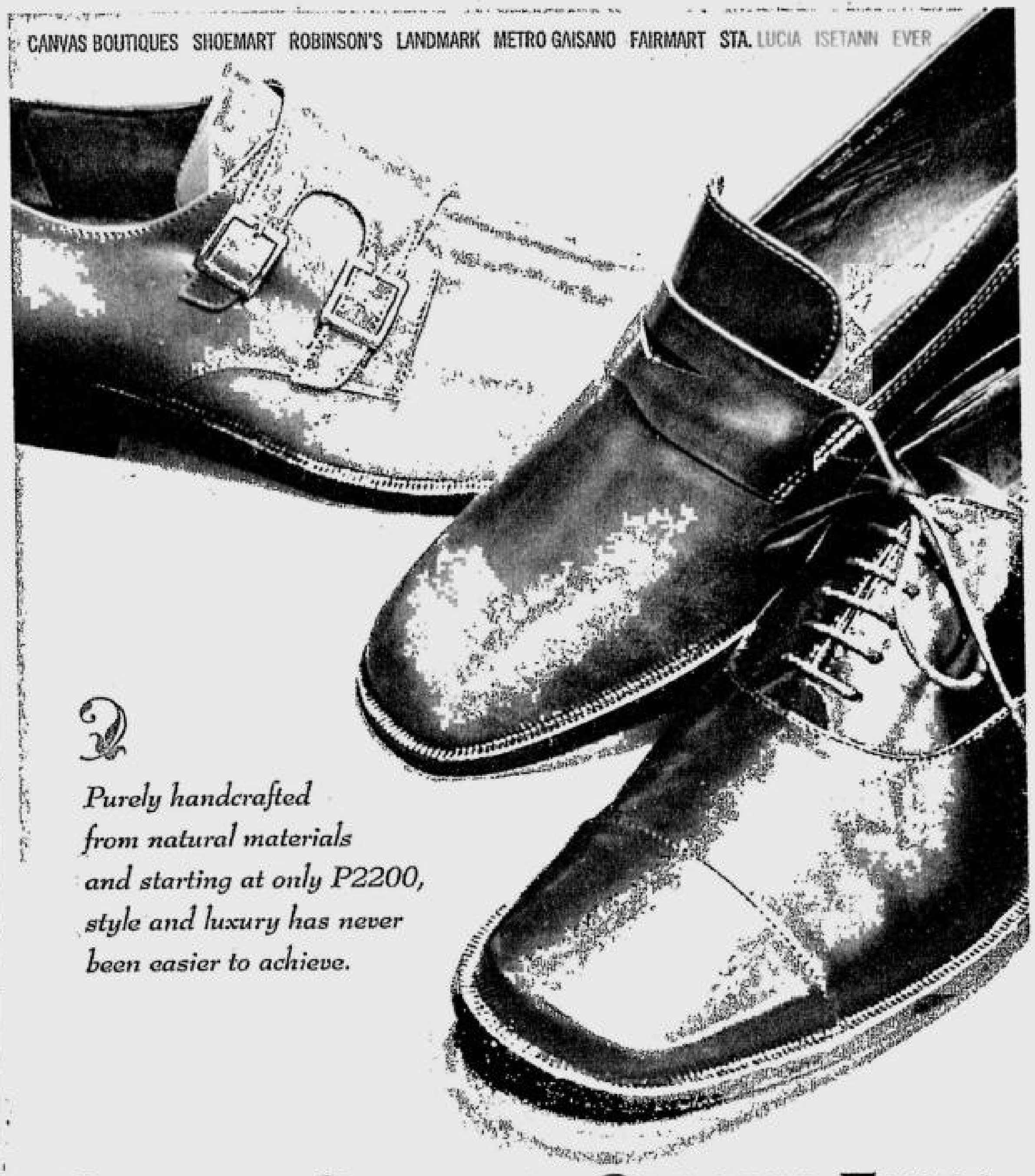

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LIVELIHOOD LECTURES. The Edsa Garden House announces the schedule of lectures for July. July 15, 2-5 p.m., Soap-making by Elma Ocrisma, seminar fee, P2,000; July 22, 2-5 p.m., Gift-wrapping by Rachy Cuna, seminar fee, P2,000; July 29, 2-5 p.m., Ikebana Flower Arrangement by Serapion Metilla, seminar fee is P500. Kits sold at P350 each. The Edsa Garden House is in the Manila Seedling Bank Environment Center at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. It has a spacious parking space. Call 9270510, 9293189. Pre-registration for the lectures is a must.

FLORAL COMPETITION. The 4th Eduard André Awards for Floral Design Competition, will be held 9 a.m.-5 p.m., July 21, at the Convention Hall of the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Elliptical Road cor. Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. Organized by Agrikultura Pilipina Inc., the Challenge to Creativity André Awards is named after French botanist Eduard André and sponsored by Jasam Floral Sundries, King Louis Flowers and Plants, Inc., and Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants. Call Agrikultura Pilipina, Inc., at tel. 9127457/9122671 or fax 9136104.

MALL SALE. Shangri-La Plaza is offering as much as 75-percent discount on selected items during its season-ender sale that ends July 31. The mall-wide sale also features "Shop, Pick & Win" that lets shoppers pick and win instant prizes. A state-of-the-art entertainment showcase can be won on the grand draw at 6 p.m., Aug. 5, Grand Atrium.

For a minimum single-receipt, same-day purchase of P2,500 shoppers get a raffle coupon plus a chance to pick instant prizes. Call Shangri-La Plaza Marketing Division at 6337851 to 70.

REWARDS POINTS. Citibank gives Platinum and Gold cardholders exclusive items they can redeem with less Rewards points.

The 2006 Rewards Catalog's new section, Intensity Gold, showcases items available to Platinum and Gold cardmembers at 20-percent less the required points. Every P30 charged locally to a Citibank Platinum or Gold card earns one Rewards point while every P30 charged overseas earn two Rewards points. Apply for a Citibank Platinum or Gold card by calling 4233000.

POSTGRADUATE COURSE. The Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, University of the Philippines, Manila and the C.H.I.L.D Foundation, Inc., will hold its 2006 Subspecialty Postgraduate Course dubbed "Across Borders: Childhood Infections in the Subspecialties," Aug. 30-31, at the Century Park Hotel.

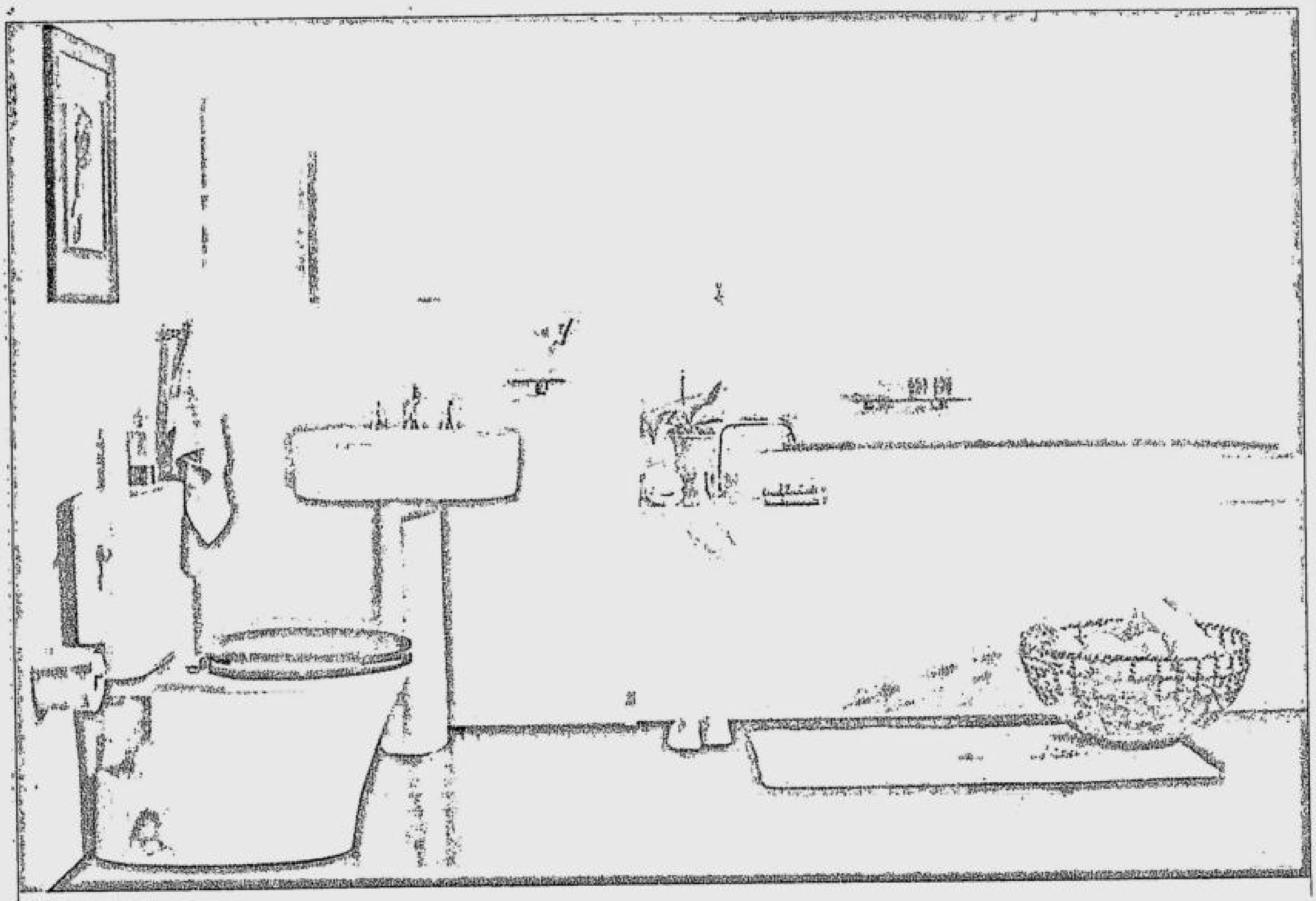
The Postgraduate course aims to update healthcare professionals on validated approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and management of pediatric and adolescent infections. Call 5240892, 5218450 loc. 2101 or 2107 for inquiries.

SEMINARS. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions (ABAP) and the Center for Human Research and Development Foundation will hold seminars for librarians: "Collection Management in a Digital Environment," July 12-13; and "Organization and Management of a Small One-man Library," July 14-15. Both seminars will be held at the Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Bldg., Real cor. Magallanes St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858 or 9254572.

MOMS AND BABIES FAIR. Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Planet Toys are holding "Mommy, Baby and Toy Fair" until July 31. The sale features the "Mom & Me" photo contest, among others.

A showcase of toys is featured in the Toy Fair being held simultaneous with Mommy and Baby Fair. It offers 50-percent discounts on participating toy brands.

SCRAPBOOK TILT. A scrapbook-making contest will be held July 16, 2 p.m., at the Entertainment Center of Sta. Lucia East. A minimum purchase of P100 from All About Scrapbook and any item from the toys, infant and maternity section of Sled entitles a customer to join the contest. Gift certificates and gift packs await winners. Call 8615481 loc. 138.



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LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY executive Leica Carpo hops on the vintage bandwagon with the Modern Mythology store.

Vintage is the way to go in business

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THERE'S REALLY MONEY IN vintage fashion. Vintage shops are popping up. By vintage, we mean the widest time span possible—from five seasons old to five decades old.

Vintage fashion entrepreneurs really have a very loose interpretation of the term.

The latest to venture into vintage is Leica Carpo, who's leaving L'Oreal, where she's corporate brand PR manager and senior marketing manager for consumer division-Maybelline. Easily one of the country's most innovative dressers, she has just opened Modern Mythology with Celine Gabriel (also of L'Oreal) and fashion designer Patrice Ramos Diaz.

The store's intriguing name—Modern Mythology—is, if you think about it, what vintage fashion is about. It's adopting and adapting yesterday's stuff to today's style: modern and contemporary marrying the lore and history of clothes.

Leica, Celine and Patrice invited only 20 friends to the store last week, not one of whom went away empty-handed. Leica says they're not so much into legendary brands (like Halston) as into clothes they themselves can wear—pretty, feminine and soft, a bit bohemian. "If it's not the type we wear, we won't sell it," Leica said.

The tags the shops carry range from the unknown to the Dolce & Gabbanas of the fashion world. The price range is fortunately wide—from P600 to a few thousand pesos.

The merchandise range is just as wide—from clothes to accessories.

The market for vintage fashion is apparently growing. Louis Claparols, whose Marni's Room is a huge success, said that recently he had in the store some high school girls shopping for bags from the '60s. (*See related story on G4.*) The clientele, he observed, could be as young as 18 or 19. Today's twentysomething want to wear stuff from the '60s, even the '50s—from clothes to Jackie O shades. And if you consider that "vintage" now includes the '90s, then sky's the limit for this business.

Claparols also has fabrics from the '50s, mostly rayons. (I thought he had alaskin.) Marni's Room began as a home business in

VINTAGE/ G3

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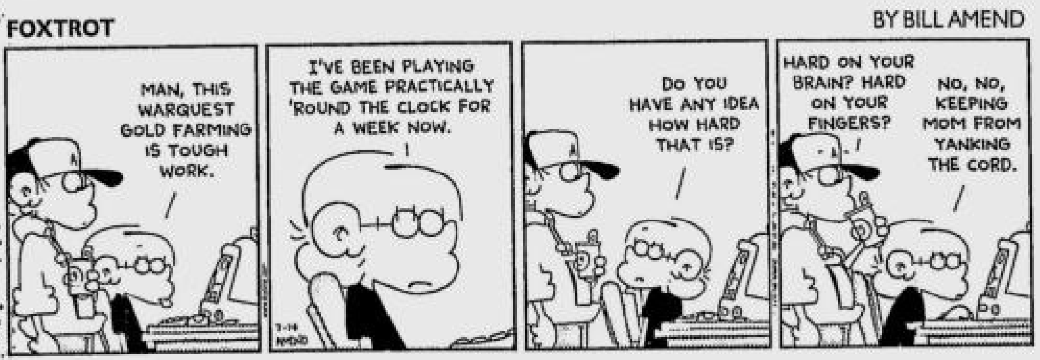
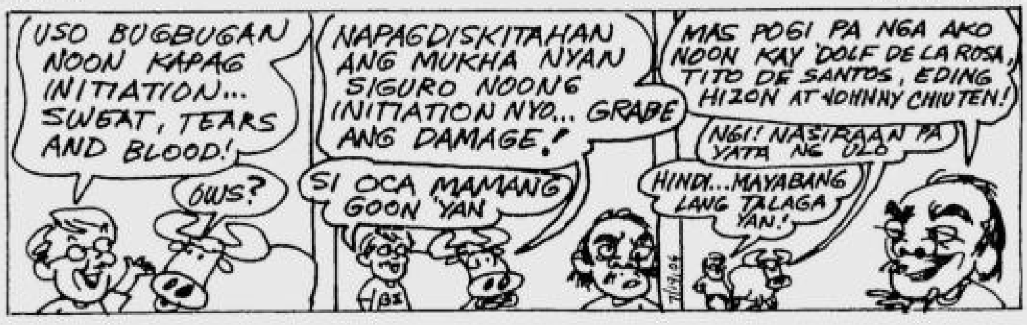
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MAN, THIS WARQUEST GOLD FARMING IS TOUGH WORK.
I'VE BEEN PLAYING THE GAME PRACTICALLY 'ROUND THE CLOCK FOR A WEEK NOW.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD THAT IS?
HARD ON YOUR BRAIN? HARD ON YOUR FINGERS?
NO, NO, KEEPING MOM FROM YANKING THE CORD.
7-14 AMEND

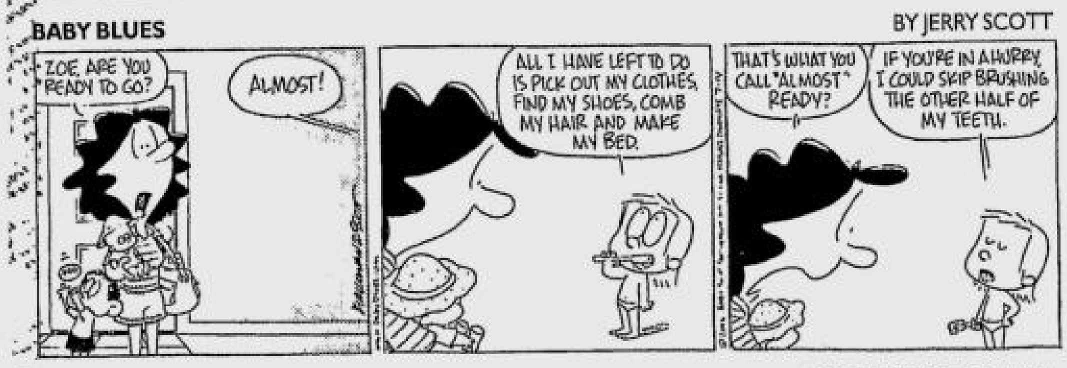
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


USO BUGBUGAN NOON KAPAG INITIATION... SWEAT, TEARS AND BLOOD!
OWS?
NAPAGDISKITAHAN ANG MUKHA NYAN SIGURO NOONG INITIATION NYO... GRABE ANG DAMAGE!
SI OCA MAMANG GOON 'YAN
MAS POGI PA NGA AKO NOON KAY DOLF DE LA ROSA, TITO DE SANTOS, EDING HIZON AT JOHNNY CHIUTEN!
NGI! NASIRAAN PA YATA NG ULO
HINDI... MAYABANG LANG TALAGA YAN!

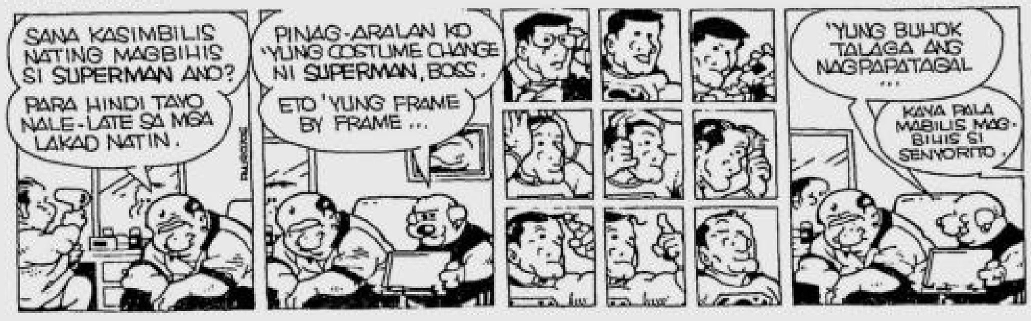
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, ARE YOU READY TO GO?
ALMOST!
ALL I HAVE LEFT TO DO IS PICK OUT MY CLOTHES, FIND MY SHOES, COMB MY HAIR AND MAKE MY BED.
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL "ALMOST" READY?
IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY, I COULD SKIP BRUSHING THE OTHER HALF OF MY TEETH.

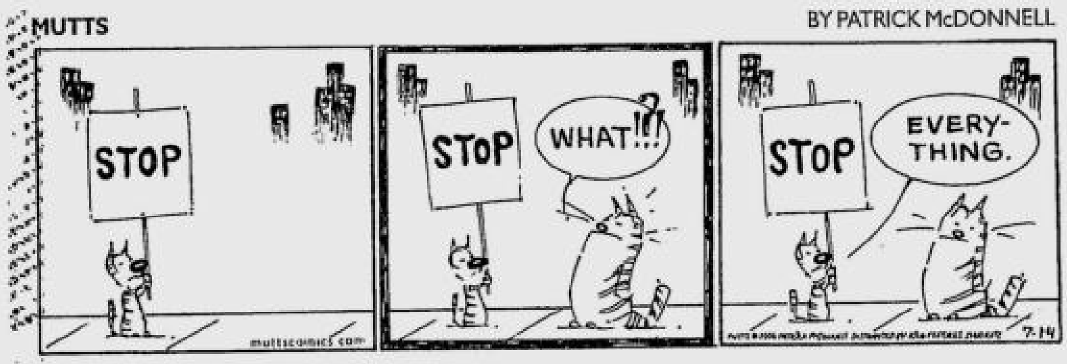
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SANA KASIMBILIS NATING MAGBIHIS SI SUPERMAN ANO?
PARA HINDI TAYO NALE-LATE SA MGA LAKAD NATIN.
PINAG-ARALAN KO 'YUNG COSTUME CHANGE NI SUPERMAN, BOSS.
ETO 'YUNG FRAME BY FRAME...
'YUNG BUHOK TALAGA ANG NAGPAPATAGAL...
KAYA PALA MABILIS MAG-BIHIS SI SENYORITO.

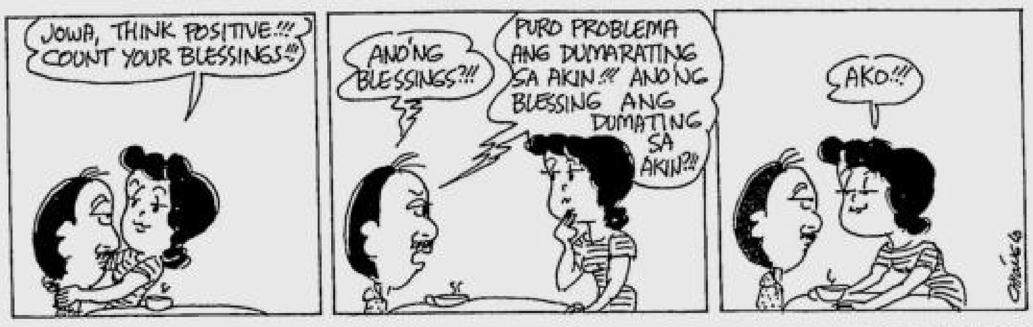
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


STOP
STOP
WHAT!!?
STOP
EVERY-THING.
muttscomics.com
7-14

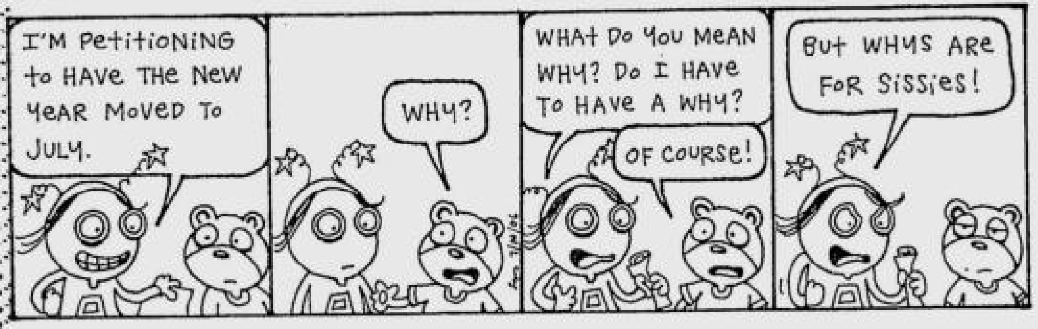
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, THINK POSITIVE!!! COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!!!
ANO'NG BLESSINGS?!!
PURO PROBLEMA ANG DUMARATING SA AKIN!!! ANO'NG BLESSING ANG DUMATING SA AKIN?!!
AKO!!!

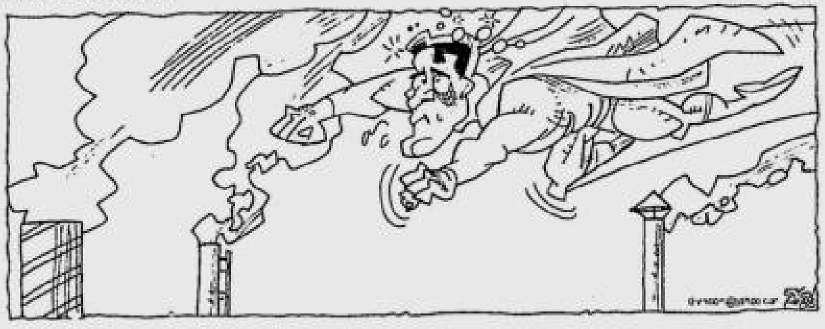
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M PETITIONING TO HAVE THE NEW YEAR MOVED TO JULY.
WHY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY? DO I HAVE TO HAVE A WHY?
OF COURSE!
BUT WHYS ARE FOR SISSIES!

DIVINE COMEDY

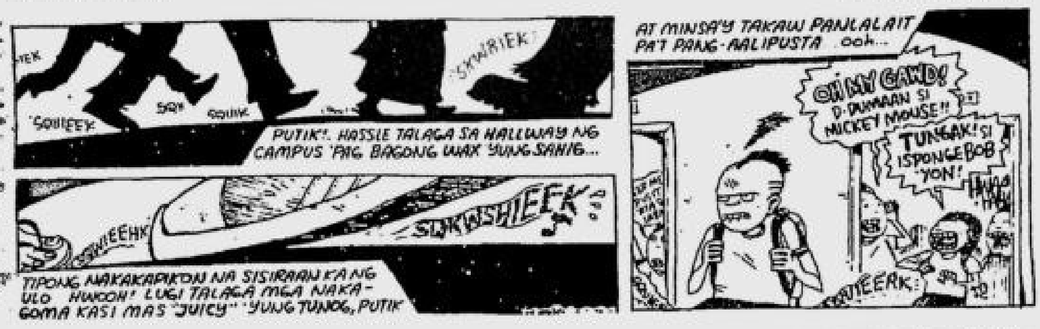
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



BIGLANG NAGKASAKIT SI SUPERMAN HINDI DAHIL NA-EXPOSE SYA SA KRYPTONITE KUNDI DAHIL DUMAAN SYA NG METRO MANILA AT NALANGHAP NYA ANG AIR POLLUTION DOON

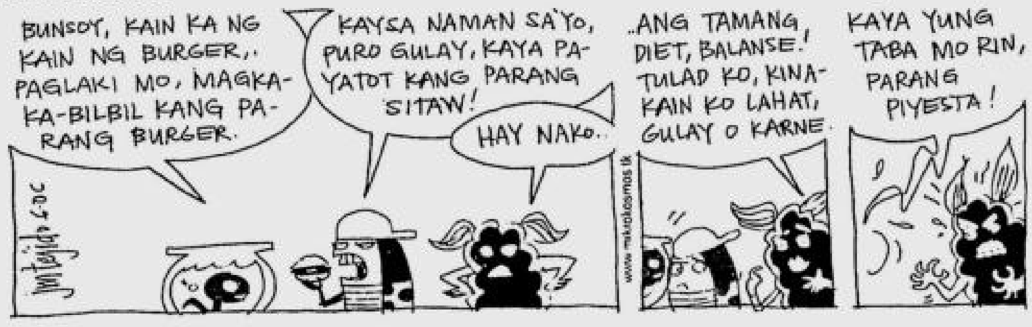
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TEK
SQUEEK
SQU
SQUIK
SKWRIEK
PUTIK!. HASSLE TALAGA SA HALLWAY NG CAMPUS 'PAG BAGONG WAX 'YUNG SAHIG...
SKWEEHK
SQKWSHIEEK
TIPONG NAKAKAPIKON NA SISIRAAN KA NG ULO HWOOH! LUGI TALAGA MGA NAKA-GOMA KASI MAS "JUICY" 'YUNG TUNOG, PUTIK
AT MINSA'Y TAKAW PANLALAIT PA'T PANG-AALIPUSTA ooh...
OH MY GAWD! D-DUMAAN SI MICKEY MOUSE!!
TUNGAK! SI ISPONGEBOB 'YON!
SQUEEERK

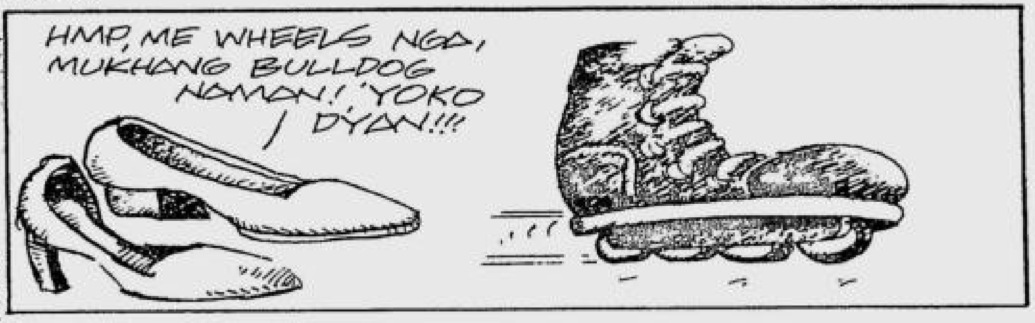
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, KAIN KA NG KAIN NG BURGER,. PAGLAKI MO, MAGKA-KA-BILBIL KANG PA-RANG BURGER.
KAYSA NAMAN SA'YO, PURO GULAY, KAYA PA-YATOT KANG PARANG SITAW!
HAY NAKO..
..ANG TAMANG DIET, BALANSE! TULAD KO, KINA-KAIN KO LAHAT, GULAY O KARNE.
KAYA YUNG TABA MO RIN, PARANG PIYESTA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

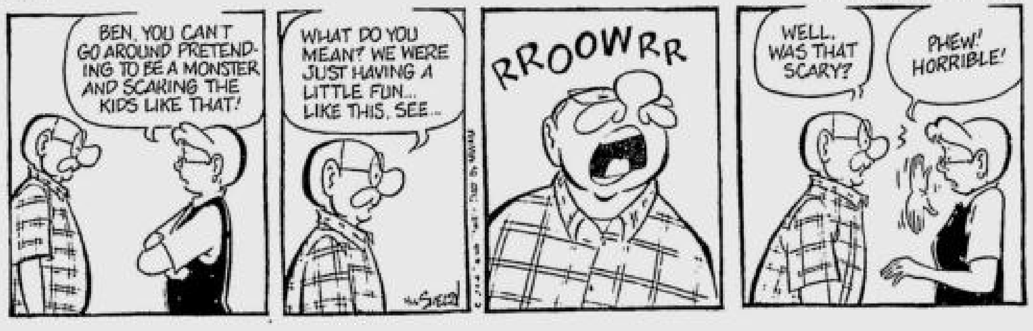
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMP, ME WHEELS NGA, MUKHANG BULLDOG NAMAN! 'YOKO DYAN!!!

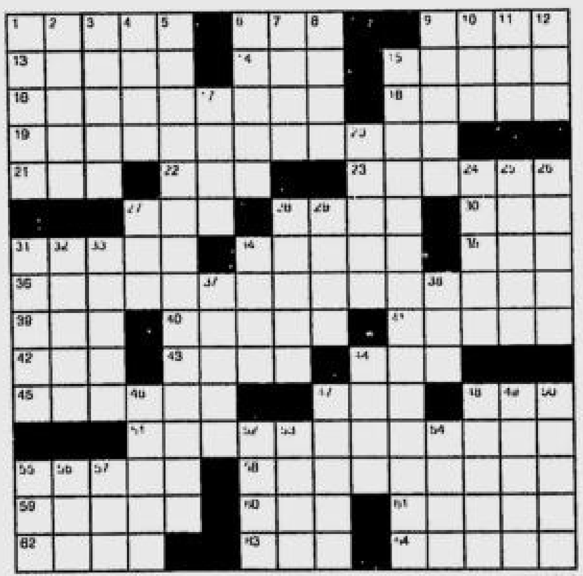
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN, YOU CAN'T GO AROUND PRETENDING TO BE A MONSTER AND SCARING THE KIDS LIKE THAT!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE WERE JUST HAVING A LITTLE FUN... LIKE THIS, SEE...
RROOWRR
WELL, WAS THAT SCARY?
PHEW! HORRIBLE!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Chocolate tree
6 W-2 info
9 Utter an orison
13 Pontificate
14 Pie __ mode
15 Communicate by letter
16 Euphemistic exclamation
18 Pluto's realm
19 Fashion update/done to death
21 Surgery rms.
22 Hi-__ graphics
23 Wonderland service
27 DDE's rival
28 Man from Tarsus
30 Nev. neighbor
31 Insurance giant
34 Richard's Agnew
35 Guitarist Paul
36 Meeting of minds/pressure line?
39 Humerus place
40 Monopoly cards
41 Persnickety
42 Lincoln center?
43 Poker stake
44 Wernher __ Braun
45 Not anchored
47 Long fish
48 Weekday abbr.
51 Carmichael classic/broom buddies
55 Canadian leaf
58 Just imagine!
59 Mystery award
60 Comfy shoe
61 Home planet of Queen Amidala
62 Rich, dark soil
63 Hindu title
64 Certain collars


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

By Patrick Blindauer
Astoria, NY

7/14/06

DOWN
1 Kramer of TV
2 Bellowing
3 Puts in order
4 Sioux tribe
5 19A, 36A and 51A on 15D
6 Wise guys
7 Talk like a boozehound
8 Half of Mork's sign-off
9 Miuccia of fashion
10 Divested
11 Devoured
12 Affirmative
15 Game show classic
17 Park and Lex.
20 __ und Drang
24 Storage facilities
25 Utopias
26 Mm-mm good!
27 Singer DiFranco
28 Josiah of bone china
29 Affectations
31 Bananalike plant
32 Missed the mark
33 Gentler
34 Leave text as is!
37 "The Flying Dutchman" girl
38 Take off
44 Enormous
46 Muslim faith
47 Italian luxury goods maker
48 Boxing-like exercise
49 Merger
50 These, in Leon
52 Turning figs.
53 Fashionable Christian
54 Kind of fall?
55 Actor Gibson
56 Small ruckus
57 Links org.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	J	A		C	A	S	T		M	A	C	R	O
A	L	A	N		O	L	L	A		A	L	L	E	N
S	O	N	G		L	E	A	R		J	E	A	N	E
T	H	E	S	H	O	E	M	A	K	E	R	W	A	S
E	A	S	T	E	R			S	O	S				
				M	A	L	L		S	T	I	N	T	S
O	W	L	S		D	E	E	M		I	N	C	A	S
P	R	O	U	D	O	F	H	I	S	C	R	A	F	T
T	A	K	E	R		T	A	R	O		F	A	T	S
S	P	I	R	A	L		H	O	U	I				
				M	A	H			T	R	A	D	E	S
A	N	D	G	A	V	E	I	T	H	I	S	A	W	L
M	E	R	I	T		H	A	R	E		A	D	E	E
O	R	I	B	I		A	G	E	R		M	A	R	E
R	O	P	E	S		B	O	S	N		A	S	S	T

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7/14/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: When taken up by a new cause or idea, you run with it. Furthermore, you easily persuade others to agree with you. It's almost as if you have magic powers. Many of you are great storytellers or you develop a particular technique for something. In the year ahead, your focus will be on your closest partnerships and friendships.

Birthdate of: Isaac Bashevis Singer, writer; Woody Guthrie, singer; Harry Dean Stanton, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): New friendships might come into your life today. If so, they will definitely be memorable. A kind of intensity underlies everything.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel obsessed about buying something today. ("I must have it!") You might feel this same obsession about a possession you already own. ("I won't lend it!")

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might feel conflict with partners and close friends today. If so, this could be due to a hidden resentment that suddenly surfaces once again. (Oh, that.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): No matter what happens today, you'll have a strong reaction. This is a good day to discover secrets and do research in any area in which you're seeking answers.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): People are susceptible to subconscious impulses today. (This includes you.) Therefore, don't be surprised if you or a friend does something that is shocking. It's not intentional.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Some of you will develop a strong crush on a teacher, boss or a VIP today. (This feeling just overwhelms you.) You might even be attracted to someone who you know is not good for you. (Yikes.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Friends could become lovers today. There's a lot of passion in the air. Whatever happens, you don't feel casual about things. Quite the opposite: You feel intense!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You feel strongly about what you believe in today. You won't budge. Whether it's political, religious or philosophical, you've got your story and you're sticking to it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Experiences in your love life are compelling today. This could lead to some bad choices. (Don't risk something solid for a mere bonbon on the side.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're very determined to improve your health in some way. This is good. But remember that the middle way is always wisest: Extremes can be dangerous.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You could be romantically involved with somebody now. If so, it's intense! Relationships that begin now will impact your life in a major way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're obsessed about making some improvements at home. This could involve redecorating or renovations, especially to bathrooms and laundry areas. Out with the old and in with the new! You want to make things look better.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

	9							
			5	6		1		8
	6		8					
						5	3	
	2		7	5	9		8	
	8	6						
					2		7	
1		3		4	6			
							1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

7/14

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	2	7	4	8	6	9	5	1
6	4	1	2	9	5	7	3	8
5	8	9	1	3	7	6	4	2
7	5	6	3	1	8	2	9	4
2	1	4	5	6	9	3	8	7
9	3	8	7	4	2	1	6	5
8	9	5	6	2	1	4	7	3
4	7	2	9	5	3	8	1	6
1	6	3	8	7	4	5	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

ON MARY Jean (left): Marni's Room striped knit top, P1,350, and fish-print red skirt, P1,650; Dressing Room necklace, P950. Shot at Home & Beyond store, 2/L R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

STYLING MILLET ARZAGA
MAKEUP LOURD RAMOS/
EMPHASIS SALON
MODELS MARY JEAN MAYCON
AND HAZEL AGUILAR
FASHION SELECT STORES AT
THE 2/L R2 LIFESTYLES, POWER
PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL
LOCATION POWER PLANT
MALL, ROCKWELL, MAKATI CITY

ON HAZEL: Graxie by Reian Mata pink ruffle-overlap top with brown lace camisole, P1,200, and shorts, P700; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P460; Marni's Room braided belt, P950; Dressing Room bangles, P275 each; Trunk Show rope sandals, P1,199; Aranaz bag, P2,500. Shot at Home & Beyond store, 2/L R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Independents' day

From page G4

"But just like before, I'll still be around most of the time to personally attend to customers," Pineda says. "They can still shop and linger if they want to in a relaxed and informal atmosphere."

Irene's Closet and Marni's Room now share a modest space with Plank and Pilar. The former features clothes designed by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo, while the latter is owned by publicist GP Reyes and journalist Vicky Tensuan.

Not that their loyal patrons are complaining. Why should they when they now have a convenient place to go to whenever they feel the urge to put together a look or beef up their wardrobes?

"They no longer have to drive to out-of-the-way places just to check on what's new," says Malou Pineda (no relation to Irene), GM of Power Plant Mall. "Almost everything they need—from dresses to accessories, bags to shoes—is here."

Since Independent Lifestyles also houses a kaleidoscope of other local brands, many of which are only found in the mall, fashionistas can celebrate their individuality by each creating a fashion statement all their own.

Varied names

The list of independent names includes Aranaz (by Armina Aranaz), Ilaya Couture, Tru, Sapato Manila, Whimsy, Marion Godart, Hot Pink, Anthem, Solea, Patteu (by Patty Eustaquio), Louvre (by LV Punzalan) and Graxie (by Reian Mata), among others. They share the same wing with such chain brands as Crabtree and Evelyn, Speedo, Nothing but Water and Evita Peroni.

There are a number of stores that feature men's items, but the concept decidedly caters more to women. To complete the latter's shopping experience, VMV Hypoallergenic cosmetics recently joined the mall with its first stand-alone shop and facial clinic at Independent Lifestyles.

At the same time, both tenants and Power Plant management are working hard to set Independent Lifestyles apart from other concepts. Aside from banking on quality, stores are expected to provide the public with stylish and hard-to-find stuff in limited quantities. In short, the strategy is to keep 'em coming.

Sapato Manila, for instance, offers no more than 24 pairs in various sizes of a particular style. Once that style is gone, it's gone forever. The same rule, if a bit more exacting, applies to clothes, especially vintage, one-of-a-kind finds. Even clothes produced by designers usually have no duplicates.

"The mall isn't that big, so we have to be selective in choosing our tenants," Malou Pineda explains. "It also helps if a personality is behind the store or brand, as it's likely to promote a more intimate relationship between client and tenant."

Malou Pineda and company stumbled upon such a concept a few years back after holding their first Vintage Bazaar at the NBC Tent.

Despite (or probably because of) featuring fledgling designers and retailers, the regular shopping fairs, which usually lasted up to three days, attracted a huge following among Manila's trendy and soon-to-be-trendy. It was only a matter of time before a number of these stores owned by the most intrepid individuals became permanent fixtures at the Power Plant.

"Mass-produced outfits and cookie-cutter looks are things you don't find at Independent Lifestyles," Malou Pineda assures.

What you do find is stuff that separates the trendsetters from the mere followers, the fashionistas from the fashion victims. With such a concept, local RTW fashion and vintage dressing have probably never been this fun and, yes, independent.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ON HAZEL: Patteau yellow/black overlap blouse by Patty Eustaquio/Plank, P1,500; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P400; Citizens of Humanity jeans at Anthem Store, P11,500. On Mary Jean: Pilar printed coat, P1,800; Marni's Room gold belt (used as necklace), P800; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, 460; Seven for All Mankind jeans at Anthem, P9,400. Shot at the Anthem Jeans store, 2/L R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Vintage is the way . . .

From page G1

Malate. The more it got featured in the glossies, the more its clientele grew. Now it can afford a space at Power Plant in Rockwell.

Hardly three weeks old, Leica's Modern Mythology is moving to a bigger space in Legaspi Village, Makati.

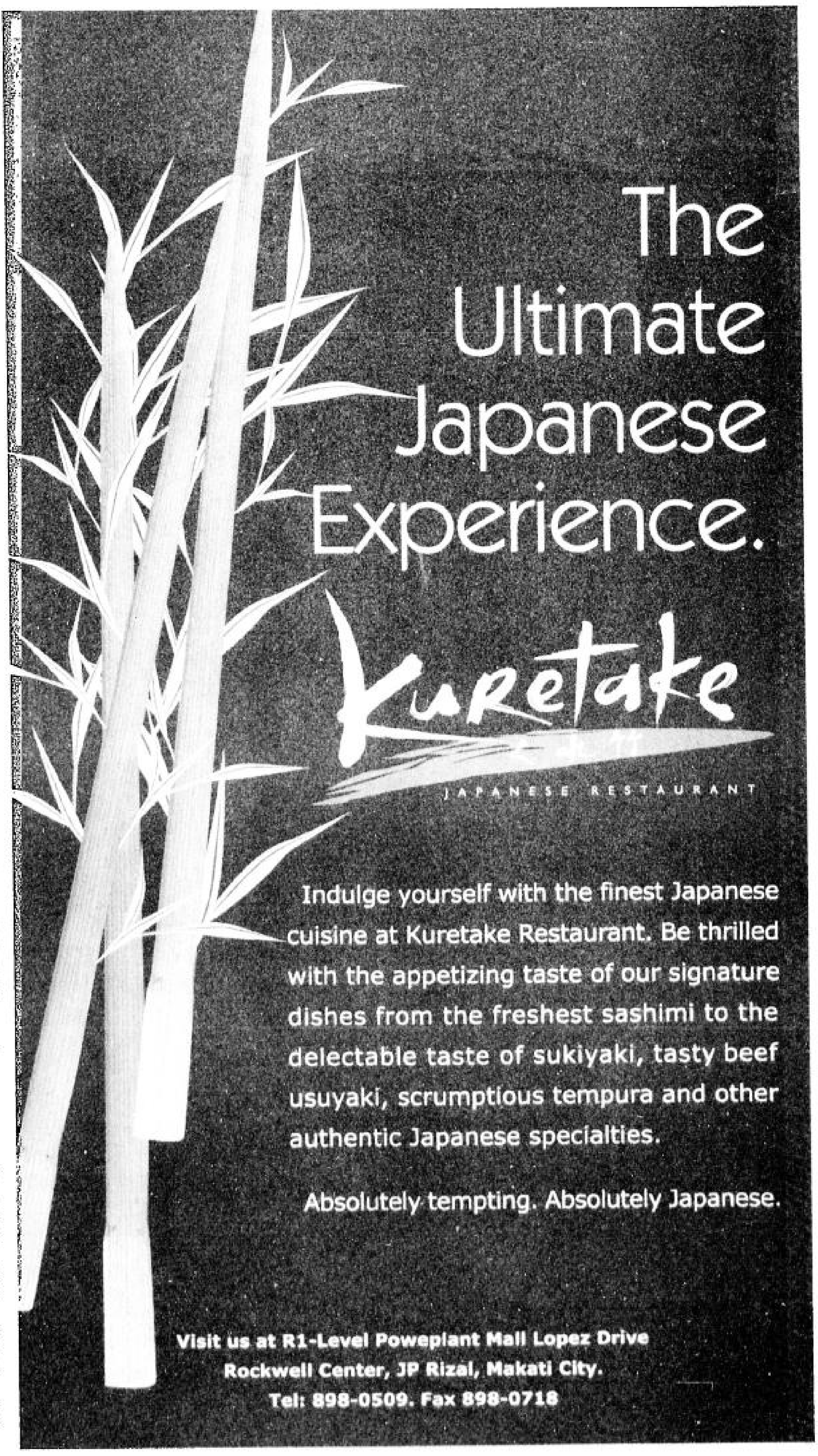
Leica is enjoying sourcing for old stuff. She only had to forage in the closet of her "abuelita" (grandmother) and her Rufino aunts. (By the way, Leica is moving back to the INQUIRER in August.)

There are other vintage stores, their names as interesting as their stuff: Closet Raiders, Baul, IloveU Store. (Five years ago, after visiting a vintage store in Melbourne, I thought opening one in Manila wouldn't be such a bad idea—I only had to raid closets, and call the store Lola's Aparador. Never got around to doing it.)

Today it's obvious that vintage is not just a trend. It is here to stay—a permanent style option for women and a few men who are always in search of options. And the 21st century lifestyle is all about options, whether it be in relationship, fashion—or even gender preference.

It's not only the *ukay-ukay* or *tiangge* that are the competition to mainstream retail. For more and more fashion-conscious women, vintage stores are the way to go.

They've been around forever in New York, Los Angeles and London. In Metro Manila, they're peaking in '06.



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Tel: 898-0509. Fax 898-0718

ON MARY Jean: Pilar orange shirt dress, P900; Ilaya Couture ruffle-lace top, P980; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P550; Seven for All Mankind jeans at Anthem, P9,400; Aranaz luggage, P3,000 each. On Hazel: Pilar bolero, P650; Ruth & Esther inner top, P800, and floral skirt, P1,290; Cru earrings by Mickey See/Pilar, P850; Dressing Room bangles, P275 each. Shot at the Designer Shop by Alice Erfe, 2/L R2 Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

ON MARY Jean: Patteau brown/mocha dress by Patty Eustaquio/Plank, P4,200; Ilaya Couture lace vest, P980; Verity neckpiece by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo/Plank, P780; Sapato Manila sandal, P1,500. On Hazel: Marni's Room batwing top, P750, and vintage Versace inner top, P1,750; Cru heart locket necklace by Mickey See/Pilar, P880; Dressing Room bubble skirt, P1,595; Aranaz bag, P3,000; Trunk Show shoes, P1,290. Shot at Restoration Store One, 3/L Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

Independents' day

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jo Ann Bitagcol

Power Plant's style row houses some of the most fiercely alternative labels in today's fashion

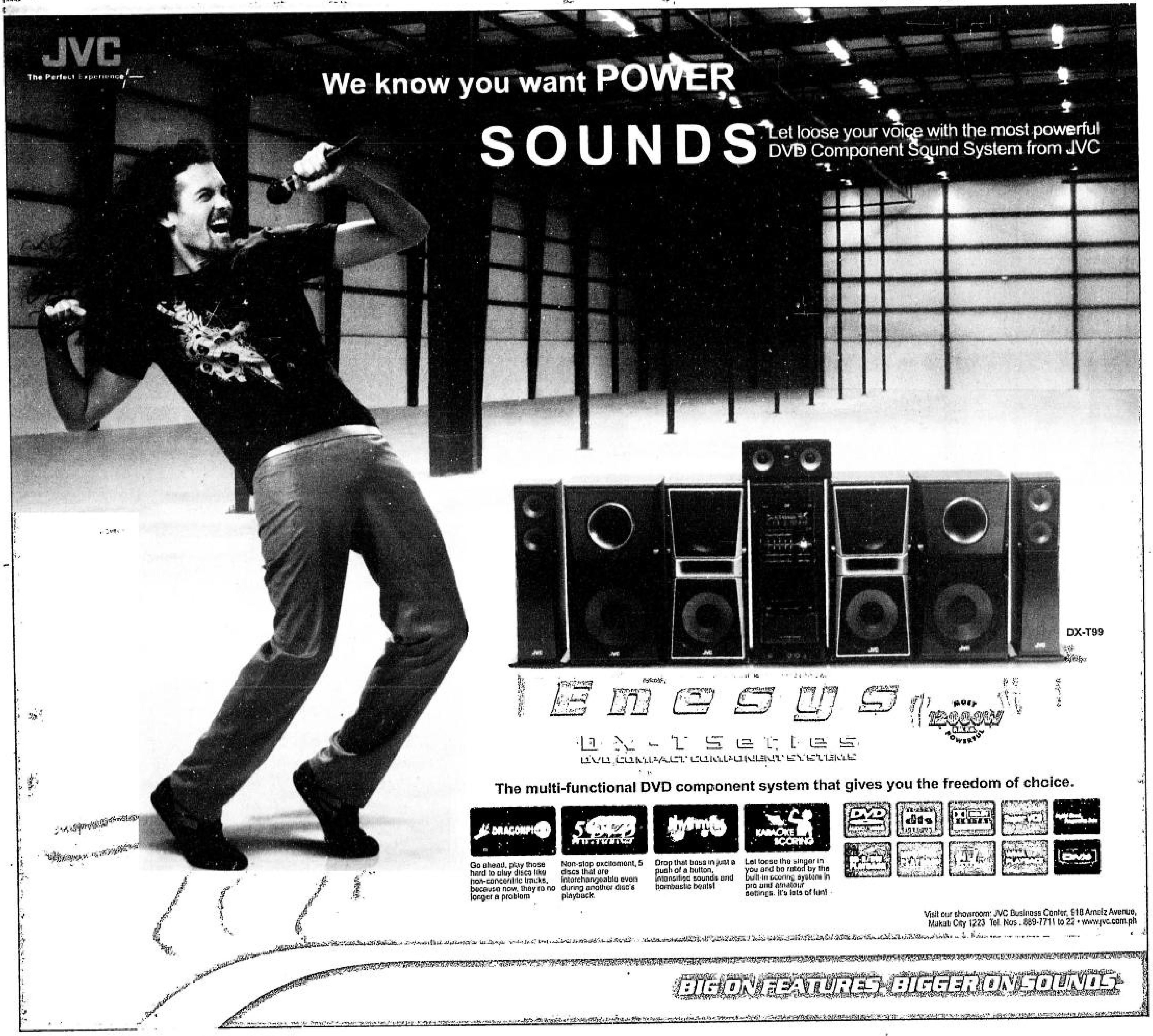
RATHER THAN BLINDLY follow trends, fashionistas are known to set trends themselves. Because of the high premium they put on individuality, they are a group apart from the simply fashionable.

These are the type of women Irene Pineda and Louie Claparols have been catering to since first opening their respective houses to a select group of clients a few years ago. Thankfully, they each now have a permanent and more convenient venue outside their homes to showcase their vintage RTW collections.

Pineda is the custodian behind Irene's Closet, which sells vintage but unused dresses and separates from Japan. Claparols, a fashion designer, and partner Bobby Carlos man Marni's Room, a homegrown label featuring pre-owned designer outfits and accessories.

Such an informal arrangement between them and their customers became a thing of the past since they joined Independent Lifestyles, an area located on the second floor of the Power Plant Mall sometime ago. For one, they're now open to everybody.

INDEPENDENTS'/ G3



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